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Britain gains from EEC

Only West Germany was a net contributor to the EEC budget last year, according to revised figures from the European Commission. Britain, benefiting from a special gap-gap rebate deal negotiated in 1980, received about £18m more from the Community than it paid in.

The figures will put extra pressure on British negotiators, but they will say that the rebate deal combined to mean Britain paid only £715m while receiving £733m.

Farm deal, page 7

Car bombing wave in Ulster

A wave of car bomb attacks across Northern Ireland caused extensive damage soon after a police warning that the Provisional IRA was intent on provoking more violence (Richard Ford writes). Five car bombs and an incendiary device went off within an hour of each other. No one was thought to be seriously injured, although a number of people, including a policeman, were slightly hurt at Strabane, Co Tyrone. A woman collapsed and had to be treated for shock when the biggest bomb exploded in Belfast.

Trade talks aim to ease tension

Officials from the EEC, the United States, Japan and Canada will meet next month near Paris in an attempt to defuse growing tensions over world trade. The meeting will follow the style of the talks held at Key Biscayne, Florida, in January.

Racialism pledge

Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow Home Secretary, defended his pledge to dismiss police officers guilty of racialism, if he held office, despite strong protests from senior policemen.

Furs campaign

An animal protection group is to campaign against the sale of fur coats made from endangered species after a Manchester company was fined £750 for selling a leopard skin coat.

Queen's Awards

The first British company to export microcomputer software to Japan is among 110 winners of this year's Queen's Awards for export and technology announced today. Awards were made to 19 firms for technological advancement.

Labour pay deal

A wage-bargaining deal is emerging from talks between party leaders and the TUC which could make Labour's general election manifesto more attractive to the political middle ground.

IBA post

Mr John Whitney, age 51, managing director of Capital Radio, has been appointed to the £40,000 a year post of director-general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority in succession to Sir Brian Young. His appointment was welcomed by an industry spokesman as "interesting and imaginative".

Cricket shadow

The shadow cast by the Test ban on several of England's best players falls heavily across the new cricket season, John Woodcock writes in a preview.

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Letters: On the Falklands, from Lord Jenkins of Putney, and others; damaged pavements, from Mr G Chaine; safeguarding countryside, from Mr Guy Somerset. Leading articles: Falklands; Council rents. Features, pages 9, 12. Roger Boyes considers the Polish paradox; walkers back on the warpath; British Rail's vision for the 1990s. Obituary, page 14. Brigadier Frederick Baston, Mr William Huntley.

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Pym off to US for talks on Britain's proposals

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

British counter-proposals to the latest Argentine proposals for a settlement of the Falkland Islands dispute are to be sent to Washington today, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, will fly there tomorrow to discuss them with Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, who is acting as mediator.

The Cabinet met for an hour last night to receive from Mr Pym an outline of the Argentine terms which Mr Haig conveyed to London on Monday night, and to consider the nature of the response which is being formulated in detail by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, with four of her senior colleagues and with the Chief of Defence Staff. This inner group, which met last night, is to meet again today.

The Argentine proposals, which Mr Haig has transmitted but not endorsed, have not been disclosed. Nor was any indication available last night of the British Government's attitude beyond Mrs Thatcher's words to the House of Commons yesterday, when she said that she could not disguise that the Argentine proposals fell short, in some important respects, of the objectives and requirements as expressed in the Commons.

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Mrs Thatcher added that, among the many problems which the Argentine proposals presented, was that they failed to assure that the Falkland Islanders should be able to determine their own destiny.

Announcing Mr Pym's journey to Washington, Mrs Thatcher said that the Government regarded the Argentine proposals as a stage in the negotiating process which must now be continued. She told questioners that she believed Mr Haig to be "a good and appropriate negotiator", and she added that the Government remained committed to seeking a diplomatic solution "if one can possibly be found that is acceptable".

Last night ministers, while revealing nothing of the Argentine proposals, and continuing to emphasize the

Politicians exploit divisions in junta

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 20

Argentina's military junta is looking increasingly weak and vulnerable amid persistent rumours of deep divisions over the Falklands crisis.

Their apparent disarray is being exploited by political parties, which are not supposed to be active but are nevertheless asserting themselves over the need to return to a civilian government.

The junta is obviously worried by the parties' restlessness and instructed General Alfredo Saint Jean, the Interior Minister, to meet 13 leading politicians today in an attempt to placate them. They have publicly chastised the regime for not keeping people properly informed of developments in the Falklands and demanded an immediate explanation of the junta's latest position.

The possibility of a change in government is being widely discussed and several leading politicians are privately mooting the idea of a transitional arrangement under which civilian members of a new administration would be chosen by some form of limited election.

One of two Argentine newspapers have published hints

about the possibility of a coup and the English language Buenos Aires Herald, which consistently displays great courage in its coverage of the Falklands crisis, published a leading article sharply attacking military rule.

It said: "There can be little doubt now, after the events of the last few weeks, that Argentina has been ruled by an elected civilian government and not an authoritarian military regime, its position would be far better than it is now."

"Had an elected government been in power Great Britain's drive to recapture the disputed south Atlantic islands would probably have been far less intense than it actually proved."

The desire to punish General Leopoldo Galtieri is in all likelihood an even more important factor than the need to demonstrate that Great Britain remains a significant power despite its economic difficulties.

Politicians are being freely quoted in newspapers on their views about the Falklands crisis and there is little doubt that all but a few continued on back page, col 4

OAS to hear Argentina's case

From Nicholas Ashford and Mohsin Ali, Washington, April 20

Buenos Aires. He was due to confer with President Reagan later today.

Upon arrival at Andrews Air Force base at 3.10 local time, Mr Haig said his attempts to resolve the crisis peacefully would continue and that his next step was to await Britain's response to the latest proposal forwarded by Argentina.

That response reached here this morning, just as the OAS was starting its meeting. The announcement by Mrs Thatcher that the proposals fell short of British objectives and that Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, would be flying to Washington on Thursday.

In a letter to Señor Bustillo,



Heroes' welcome: Lieutenant Mills (centre) and his men are greeted by Sir Stuart Pringle (left) and Mr Jerry Wiggin

Marine describes South Georgia battle

By Henry Stanhope

A young Royal Marine officer yesterday described how he and 21 others fought to keep the Union Jack flying over South Georgia, the lonely sub-Antarctic island where an illegal landing last month has brought Britain and Argentina to the brink of war.

He said that after two hours of heavy and continuing firing between 10 and 15 Argentine commandos lay dead, at least 20 more were wounded, two helicopters had been shot down and a corvette so badly crippled by anti-tank rockets that it barely limped back to its mainland port.

Lieutenant Keith Mills, aged 22, from Amlwch, Gwynedd, told a press conference at the Ministry of Defence: "What we did at Grytviken I don't think could

have been achieved by anybody else. Every man was prepared to die for the reasons that we were there, and I was very proud of them."

He was speaking only hours after they had flown in to RAF Brize Norton, with seven other marines captured on the Falklands themselves and 13 scientists of the British Antarctic Survey.

RAF onlookers gave them a hero's welcome, cheering and clapping as they stepped off the VC10, to be met by Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir Stuart Pringle, Commandant-General Royal Marines and Mr Rex Hunt, Governor of the Falkland Islands, expelled by the Argentine occupying troops.

The battle of South Georgia took place on April 3, a

day after the invasion of the Falklands, when an Argentine officer landed at Grytviken from the patrol ship Bahia Paraiso. He called on the marines to surrender.

"Our reply was that we were under orders not to surrender," Lieutenant Mills said. A corvette was then seen steaming towards the shore and an Alouette helicopter appeared overhead.

After evacuating the British scientists to a nearby church, he went down to the jetty to negotiate with the Argentines, but retreated through the water to strike the position of trenches and booby traps which they had prepared the previous day, when one of the Argentine soldiers from the helicopter jumped out on landing and aimed his rifle.

It was the Royal Marines who opened the firing, how-

ever, at an Argentine Puma helicopter with 20 commandos on board which was ordered to land 100 yards away. They fired between 600 and 800 rounds at the helicopter which backed away trailing black smoke and landed on the other side of the bay. "No marines were seen to descend from it", Lieutenant Mills said.

They hit the corvette more than 1,200 times, hitting it badly with one 84mm anti-tank rocket which fell 10 yards short but failed to detonate and ploughed through the water to strike the ship below the waterline. They also scored 66mm rocket hits on the vessel which returned to sea and replied with its 100mm cannon in the bows.

Lieutenant Mills surrendered after the Argentines, despite losing a second

helicopter, had landed more than 100 men and had cut off the British line of retreat. He walked down to the beach holding a coat with white lining and told the Argentine marine commander that he and his men had achieved their main objective.

"We had forced the Argentines to take South Georgia by military action. They could not possibly say that they marched in without any military resistance".

Fifteen scientists still in hiding on South Georgia are becoming increasingly worried for their own safety (the Press Association reports).

The group and two women film makers - Cindy Buxton and Annie Price - believe the Argentines may try to use them as a lever in negotiations, according to Dr Ray Ardic, deputy director of the British Antarctic Survey.

Insurers think papal visit is off

By David Hewson

Lloyd's insurance underwriters believe that the Pope's visit will be called off because of the Falklands crisis. By last night, only one underwriter was offering contingency cover against the cancellation of the tour and that was at the rate of 20 per cent premium of the amount covered.

Before the crisis, many underwriters were accepting cover on the basis of a three to five per cent premium, but, according to the director of the main brokers involved, many businesses facing large losses because of a cancellation remain uncovered.

Mr John Kelvey Brown, a director of the broking firm Adam Brothers Contingency Insurance, said yesterday: "Our market has now folded up. Nobody is accepting the business."

Adams, thought to have handled the bulk of the contingency insurance for the visit, has placed £2m, compared with £12m spent on contingency insurance for the Royal Wedding.

The £2m spent on the Pope's visit, mainly from large companies involved in the sale of mementoes, Mr Kelvey Brown said, that catering firms and companies dealing with the travel arrangements for the visit were among the larger groups still uncovered.

"A lot of people have a lot of money riding on this visit. They could be left with a lot of worthless trinkets and souvenirs on their hands."

The £2m placed through Adams could represent a total loss of up to about £60m for the Lloyd's market in the event of a cancellation. But brokers now believe that the pay-out would be much less. The companies would only recompense manufacturers for unsold stock, and sales could still reach healthy levels.

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Polish visit, page 7
Falkland insurance, page 15

MPs allowed three votes on return of hanging

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has decided that the House of Commons should be allowed a special one-day debate, with as many as three votes, on capital punishment before the end of next month.

The debate would be taken on an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, which is now due to return to the Commons for its report stage.

Mr Vivian Bandal, Conservative MP for Miford, North, last night tabled three separate amendments, one to reintroduce capital punishment for the murder of policemen and prison warders, another for terrorists who kill in the course of terrorist acts, and another for armed robbers who murder in the course of committing their crimes.

Normally, such amendments would not be allocated one day for debate and

something which is not expected to be passed. The House would come forward with a new Bill to implement the expressed wish of the House.

Mr Bandal said last night that he had decided to go for three separate amendments because previous Commons votes had been across the board and that had proved an obstacle for some MPs who would have wanted capital punishment for the murder of policemen, but did not want to see the return of the death penalty for other murder offences.

He said: "There are some MPs who do not want capital punishment for terrorists, for fear of making martyrs. He thought that majorities against capital punishment for terrorists and armed robbers, killing in the pursuit of their crimes, would be higher."

Israeli curbs on Sinai reporting anger media

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, April 20

The Israeli Government has become involved in a bitter clash with all sections of the media and with foreign journalists as a result of its determination to restrict reporting of the final evacuation of occupied Sinai.

Last night Israel television main news bulletin halted for a minute to protest at the military restrictions and today's newspapers appeared with a coordinated black space on their front pages in a similar protest.

Later, a delegation representing Israeli editors and the local journalists' association was forcibly turned back at an Army roadblock where members attempted to enter Sinai without permits.

Judges in the High Court in Jerusalem rejected an appeal by the Foreign Press Association against the new orders barring coverage of the emotional Sinai evacuation, in which more than 2,000 dachshunds will be removed. The association represents some 200 foreign reporters and television men working in Israel.

Among the Sinai protesters is a group of about 20 zealots from the extreme right-wing Kash movement who have been threatening to commit mass suicide in a large air raid shelter which they have fortified and equipped with emergency rations.

Tomorrow, their Brooklyn-born leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane, is expected to arrive from New York in a last-ditch effort to persuade his young followers to abandon their death threat.

The protesters have refused attempts by Israel's two chief rabbis to rescind their threat to commit suicide at 30-minute intervals. But the decision of Rabbi Kahane to travel personally to the bunker, nicknamed Masada, has raised local hopes that the

spectacular protest suicides may yet be averted.

In today's High Court session, the judges accepted the submission by the State Attorney that widespread media coverage would hinder the evacuation, which is being carried out by some 20,000 troops. Earlier, Mr Begin personally told a delegation from the influential editors' committee that the purpose of the ban, aimed particularly at television cameramen, was to prevent bloodshed.

The Prime Minister's stand comes at a time of growing complaints about official threats to press and broadcasting freedom in Israel. It follows a dispute with the Israeli newspaper editors and the television company over prohibitions on reporting of a seven-week Army barricade imposed on four Druze Arab villages in the annexed Golan Heights.

Even papers often sympathetic to the Government have spoken out strongly.

Today, the state-controlled Israel Radio - whose own reporter described how he had evaded capture by the security forces - disclosed that 12 foreign journalists from nine different countries had barricaded themselves in one of the abandoned apartments in the town.

The reporters issued a statement to the army threatening to resist eviction if they were not allowed to freely report the removal of the dachshunds.

The United States vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning recent shooting incidents on Jerusalem's Temple Mount as "appalling acts of sacrilege". The vote was 14 in favour and one against but the negative vote by the United States killed the draft.

Ministers to quit, page 6

Doubts on murder conviction

By Frances Gibb

Serious doubts over the conviction of Paul Clelland, a Stevenage decorator serving a 20-year sentence for murder, are disclosed in a special investigation by The Times published today.

Inconsistencies in police evidence, and an extraordinary sequence of errors in prison records have led MPs, lawyers and now an independent forensic scientist to support the case for a retrial.

The Home Office has already produced its own confidential report on the discrepancies, which it refuses to publish. Mr Bowen Wells, Conservative MP for Hertford and Stevenage, said yesterday that he was calling on the Home Secretary to release the report to "shed light on the very worrying aspects of this case".

Case for a retrial, page 9

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Hattersley firm on dismissal of racist police

By Richard Evans

Mr Roy Hattersley MP last night defended his promise to dismiss policemen found guilty of racism if he decided to do so.

Mr Hattersley said: "We are not condoning racial discrimination, but we insist that the existing discipline code is effective for dealing with complaints of this kind."

Chief Supt John Keyte, national secretary of the Police Superintendents' Association, yesterday called the pledge "frightening" and said there was no justification for one group of workers to have a fixed penalty of dismissal hanging over their heads.

Mr Jim Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, which represented junior and middle-ranking officers, said he was in total disagreement with Mr Hattersley and welcomed the firm stand by the superintendents' organization.

Mr Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, said in a speech at the weekend that if he held office a police officer found guilty of racist behaviour "will be a police officer no longer."

Last night he added: "I would have thought the police would have agreed with the views expressed by myself and Lord Scarman that the dismissal of officers found guilty of racism is crucial to improving the relationship between them and ethnic minorities in this country."

Mr Keyte said: "The police service is a discipline code. To commence a duty with such strong convictions is to undermine the discipline code."

The position of Home Secretary carried a duty and responsibility to act as the final appeal court against either a guilty finding or sentence under the discipline code. To commence a duty with such strong convictions is to undermine the discipline code.

Commons seeks private money for MPs' offices

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Commons is to investigate the possibility of finding private finance to construct a new parliamentary building at Westminster.

The plans, for which private backing is to be sought, were presented to Parliament in 1979 by Sir Hugh Casson and Mr David Ramsay; they are for development of the Bridge Street site opposite the Commons and Big Ben.

The scheme was vetoed by the Prime Minister in 1980 because of the cost, then estimated at £122m over a decade. But a report issued by the Select Committee on House of Commons Services yesterday recommended that the idea should be resurrected.

A resolution endorsed by Mr Francis Pym on March 30, when he was Leader of the House, agreed that a sub-committee should "undertake an inquiry into the feasibility of, and the advantages derived from, securing the assistance of private funds, in whole or in part, of the implementation of Sir Hugh Casson's plans for the development of the Bridge Street site."

The Commons has spent £3.25m on refurbishing the Old Scotland Yard building, known after the architect, as Norman Shaw North, which borders the Bridge Street site on the east. The neighbouring Norman Shaw South has also been restored over recent years on a limited annual budget of £200,000 a year for two years.

Yesterday's services committee report also suggests that the new investigation should include the possibility of MPs taking over refurbished accommodation in Palace Chambers, part of the Bridge Street complex, "pending any other solution" to the shortage of office space.

The site is bordered by Parliament Street, the Thames embankment and Cannon Row police station. The preliminary plans, which cost £100,000, proposed a seven-storey, granite office block containing an official flat for the Leader of the Opposition, a riverside restaurant for MPs, a private terrace garden, a swimming pool, and scope for a £5m underground car park.

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Electricity men get wage claim warning

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

The Central Electricity Generating Board has warned its 60,000 industrial and white-collar employees that continued wage settlements at the level of the past few years will endanger the industry's future.

Mr John Baker, the board's commercial member, has told the industry's national house newspaper *Power News* that "excessive pay settlements this year can only worsen the board's position to the detriment of our staff". His comments may be seen by unions officials as an attempt to influence the course of the present ballot among 35,000 manual workers on an 8.5 per cent offer.

The board, however, appears more seriously concerned about the possible effects of a confrontation with its 25,000 power engineers who are dismayed about what they say is the erosion of differentials over their manual colleagues.

Mr Lyons, general secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, told his union's conference earlier this month that industrial action was "very possibly unavoidable" if the Electricity Council's proposed negotiating body, failed to improve differentials.

Mr Baker says in his interview that over the last five years average earnings in the industry have risen faster than those in the rest of the economy, while the working week has been cut to 37 hours.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday promised backing for Kent miners in their fight to keep open the threatened Smeaton colliery. Mr Tom McGee, the union's mining engineer, is to undertake an "appraisal" of the colliery with the aim of producing a plan to maintain at least 700 of the 850 jobs at the pit.

Union leaders representing the country's 17,000 ambulance men expected a pay offer worth 5 per cent for this year. The union's general secretary, Mr John Baker, said the offer was "a good one" and that the union would accept it.

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Mr George Howard, chairman of the BBC, with Miss Clair Bloom at the reception before a Foyle's luncheon yesterday in honour of Miss Bloom, whose autobiography was published recently.

Anger over command bunker on trust land

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The National Trust has decided to allow the Ministry of Defence to build an underground bunker on its land, to house the main communications centre for the air defence of the United Kingdom. The decision has caused a storm of protest among members of the trust who fear that it will weaken the protection of the trust.

The trust was given the Bradenham estate on condition that it applied its unique power to make it impossible to sell or split it without the permission of Parliament. The trust has since disclosed that it would have preferred not to give full protection to parts of the estate, including the field where the bunker will be built.

It is satisfied that the fear of conservationist about the environmental impact of the hole needed for the bunker are unjustified. The water table is far deeper than the hole at 85 metres, so that pumping out will not be necessary.

The bunker, which will be covered by a mound 30ft high, will replace the 40-year-old underground communications centre at nearby RAF High Wycombe. The new unit will provide a command headquarters for RAF Strike Command and for the Nato Commander of United Kingdom air forces.

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Video copies cause loss of £750,000

Five leading film and video companies have lost £750,000 through an operation based around a video counterfeiting factory, the High Court was told yesterday.

The factory, above a betting shop in Northampton, contained 46 recorders producing copies of films such as *Superman*, *10*, and *Water-ship Down*, Mr Robin Jacob, QC, told the court. They seized under a court order by the companies' agents.

In what is thought to be the biggest case of alleged video piracy so far, more than a dozen individuals and companies have been bound by a variety of undertakings and court orders granted over the last fortnight not to continue their operations or remove any assets. New orders were made by Mr Justice Whitford yesterday, who also ordered a company of distributors to disclose details of tape sales, worth £104,000, to the operation.

The companies bringing the action are all members of the British Videogram Association, which claims that more than half the pirated video tapes sold in Britain are pirated.

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Science report

Tracing the origin of ancient artefacts

By the staff of "Nature"

Traces of lead and ancient copper and bronze artefacts are revealing the origins of the metal from which the objects were made, two Oxford archaeologists have announced.

Noel Gale of the Department of Geology and Mineralogy and his wife Zofia Stos-Gale of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, have developed a technique which makes use of the so-called "isotopic composition" of the lead traces.

Copper ores from different mines have different isotopic compositions, so an investigator can distinguish which mine produced the metal contained in a particular object.

The technique is an advance on previous methods of trace metal analysis because they are unaffected by chemical treatment, such as the smelting which reduces an ore to the metal.

Isotopes are atoms of exactly the same chemical nature, but slightly different weights (they have different numbers of neutrons in the atomic nucleus). These weights can be distinguished by modern techniques, but are all treated alike by ancient technology.

Previously the Gales have worked with Aegean silver, which contains large lead impurities, and have shown that much of it came from a single mine, Laurion in Attica. The dominance of the Laurion silver mine in classical times was known from historical evidence, but it was a surprise to find that it also played a major role much earlier.

But a greater surprise has come with the Galathea work on copper and bronze (which is technically more difficult as the lead content is much smaller). They find that of 22 Aegean artefacts analysed, half also came from Laurion. It was previously unknown that Laurion played a great role in copper production as well as in silver.

The great prize now, however, must be the analysis of the ox-hide ingots of copper, which are found in Cyprus, Crete, Sicily and Sardinia, and are also seen in Egyptian tomb paintings. These represented a major Bronze Age trade in metal; but there is still great controversy over the origin and movement of the ingots.

Applied to them, the Oxford isotopic method may produce yet more archaeological surprises. Source: *Science* (vol. 216, page 11) 1982.

© Nature-Times News Service, (1982).

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Chemicals were 'wrongly buried'

The decision to bury chemicals at Craigmillar in Edinburgh was wrong, it was admitted yesterday at a committee meeting to investigate the explosion they caused in a council refuse tip last month.

Dr Jag Cook, of the environmental safety group at Harwell, said it was unfortunate that the barrels from a demolished fireworks factory were buried together. It was likely that the combination of magnesium and sulphur had reacted and exploded. The last barrel was dug up last night.

Island sold for £30,000

A Cardiff college principal Mrs Meir Llewellyn, aged 39 was told yesterday that her bid of just over £30,000 had bought her the ownership of the 14 acre Sully Island 500 yards from the mainland, near Cardiff.

As she and the students at her private careers college celebrated with champagne, she revealed plans for a £250,000 health farm on the island.

Third child dies after house fire

A third child has died after the fire which swept through a council house in Durham on Monday. Paul Grainger, aged 10 months, died at Middlesbrough General Hospital early today.

His brother Gary, aged five died in the fire at the family home in Cumberland Place, Newton Aycliffe, and his sister Kathy, aged two, died soon afterwards.

Action over cars on pavements

Motorists who park on the pavement in central London could face prosecution and a bill for damages this summer. Westminster City Council has decided to enforce the law which makes it an offence to drive on to pedestrian areas.

The council said damaged pavements were a big problem, especially for the blind, handicapped and parents with pushchairs.

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Science report

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Traces of lead and other metals in ancient copper and bronze artefacts are revealing the origins of the objects which made two Oxford archaeologists have announced.

Dr Gale of the Department of Geology at the University of Oxford, and his wife, Dr. Gale of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, have developed a technique which makes use of the "isotopic composition" of the lead in the artefacts. The technique involves analysing the isotopic composition of the lead in the artefacts, and comparing it with the isotopic composition of the lead in the soil at the site where the artefact was found. This allows the archaeologists to trace the origin of the artefact to a specific region.

Previously, the lead in the artefacts was analysed for its chemical composition, but this did not provide as much information as the isotopic analysis. The new technique is a significant advance in the study of ancient artefacts.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Reservoir inquiry for third time

A third public inquiry opened in Devon yesterday into the plan to build a 700-acre reservoir at Roadford, to the west of Dartmoor (Craig Seton writes).

Years of uncertainty have surrounded the plan and opposing interests remain. The plan was originally intended as part of the South West Water Authority's strategy up to the year 2011.

The public inquiry, at Okehampton, was ordered by Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. Although he now accepts that the reservoir should be at Roadford, he has asked that its size should be reconsidered and that is the only issue now to be decided.

At yesterday's hearing, however, Mr. Peter Hain, Conservative MP for West Devon, asked the inquiry inspector to recommend that the reservoir should not be on valuable farmland. The Dartmoor Preservation Society is keeping a watching brief.

Southend cells for skinhead

A new approach to sentencing Bank holiday trouble makers was adopted by Southend magistrates yesterday. Instead of being fined heavily or sent to prison one young London skinhead was ordered to stay in the local police cells until Saturday to give him time to reflect on his behaviour.

Gary Guymer, aged 17, unemployed, of Nelson Road, Clapham Common, who gave Nazi salutes on the seafront last Easter Monday, pleaded guilty to threatening behaviour.

Playing boy was hanged by chain

An accidental death verdict was recorded at an inquest at Hovey yesterday for Jeffrey Atkinson, aged 14, of Barchin Gardens, Palmer's Green, London, who hanged himself with a chain attached to a loft ladder while playing.

Prince to dive again

The Prince of Wales will make two dives next week, making a total of 10, to the Tudor warship Mary Rose, which sank off Southsea, Hampshire, in 1545. He will be accompanied by the former King Constantine of Greece who has also dived on the wreck before.

The Prince's visit coincides with the start of a month's archaeological excavation by 20 volunteer divers.

ITV pays £4.5m for 'Superman'

Independent television is buying the first two Superman films for £4.5m (about £2,250,000 each). They will be screened next year in a package of six box office successes.

Jaws set a record commercial television of 23 million and *Encounters of the Third Kind* was seen by 15,500,000 viewers at Christmas. The independent channel also has *Star Wars* and *Jaws II* in its line-up.

Wheelchair boy dies in river

A handicapped boy drowned yesterday after his wheelchair slipped into the River Trent at Scunthorpe, near Nottingham. The body of the boy, who was not named, was recovered, still in the wheelchair, from 10ft of water by a team of police frogmen. Police are investigating how the tragedy happened.

Orkney bells on sea voyage

The three bells of Orkney's 800-year-old Cathedral of St. Magnus have been shipped to the mainland for restoration after being lowered 90ft from the tower.

The two smaller bells were cast in Edinburgh in 1528. The largest, which weighs 1,420lb, was cast in Amsterdam in 1682. The restoration work will be carried out by the foundry firm John Taylor of Loughborough (Leicester).

Research jobs saved

Two of Britain's top agricultural research stations, due to be closed or phased down, have been spared, but 110 jobs will still go at the Animal Breeding Research Organisation at Edinburgh and 47 at the Long Ashton Research Station in Bristol. Originally 250 jobs were to go.

A Chinese seaman with a head injury was airlifted to hospital in Canterbury by helicopter yesterday after an incident on board a Panamanian refrigeration ship in the Channel.

Labour designs a wage deal for all workers

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Perth

A deal on wage bargaining designed to make Labour's general election manifesto more attractive to the political middle ground is taking shape in talks between party leaders and the TUC.

Progress between the two wings of the Labour movement on a "national economic assessment" that would affect pay claims was disclosed yesterday after the Scottish TUC judged the issue of income policy during the economic debate.

The conference went on to approve its traditional stance of opposition to incomes policies. Delegates overwhelmingly approved a resolution tabled by the left-wing led Technical Administrative and Supervisory section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers that argued against wage controls, but moderate members of the TUC General Council were last night arguing privately that this formal policy decision by the STUC would not halt the talks with the Labour Party at national level.

Mr. David Bassett, chairman of the TUC economic committee, argued that it was essential to achieve flexible understanding on wages with a prospective Labour government to meet the requirements of different groups of workers within the framework of a nationally negotiated economic policy.

The main elements of such a deal now under discussion include an extension of the principle of pay indexation — already operating for the firemen — in the public sector so that the pay of key workers is tied to salary movement in private industry.

Mr. Bassett told *The Times*: "We have to look at the priorities in the distribution of the gross national product, but there is no case for a rigid, structured incomes policy. There is a very strong case for accepting trade union involvement in an annual economic assessment. That involvement will influence bargaining."

Trade unions will be seeking, as well, legislation from a Labour government to provide minimum conditions returning some things we have already lost and giving

others that we have not yet achieved.

Mr. Bassett, who is strongly influencing talks aimed at reaching an agreement for an early election manifesto, added: "The essential thing is to build up an understanding which allows negotiators the flexibility they need to secure their individual needs while taking account of the agreed national economic assessment."

Failure to do this and to attempt to introduce a rigid incomes policy would, as it has always done, blow up in the faces of the government and the trade unions after two years."

Those moves towards an incomes policy have attracted hostility from the left. In an unpublished clash during the TUC economic committee meeting two weeks ago, Mr. Ken Gill, Communist leader of the engineering workers, accused moderate unions of working towards a wage restraint programme in defiance of the TUC's official policy of free collective bargaining.

Those divisions came out in public yesterday at the Scottish TUC conference at Perth as Mr. Sidney Weighall, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, insisted that Labour's economic strategy must encompass wages."

Delegates unanimously endorsed the 15-point alternative economic strategy which Mr. Weighall would not command the confidence of the electorate unless it included wages. "You will not deserve to be believed, and you will not get power either," he said. The NUR leader was supported by Mr. Alan Tiffin, general secretary-elect of the Union of Communication Workers, who told the conference: "You know as well as I do there is no such thing as free collective bargaining."

The STUC condemned government policies on the economy "which are destroying large sections of industry, crippling communities and impoverishing millions of people" and called for the early return of a Labour government committed to the alternative economic strategy.

That strategy would involve capital exports; planning agreements with "teeth"; further nationalization; and an extension of the National Enterprise Board; immediate and substantial reduction in public investment in housing, railways, the health service and inner cities; import controls; help for manufacturing industry using the profits of North Sea oil, reduced arms spending, a wealth tax and cheaper energy for industry.



Engineers from Ogle Design, Letchworth, converting a Range Rover to carry the Pope during his visit. The vehicle is one of two to be fitted with bullet-proof windows and armour plating, and will be used in the procession to accompany the six-wheeled Popemobile.

Police investigate burning of papal dais

Police are investigating a fire which yesterday destroyed a specially constructed dais in Pontcanna Fields, Cardiff from which the Pope was to have addressed an expected 350,000 people on the last day of his visit to Britain (Tim Jones writes).

Three youths were seen running away from the dais which had almost been completed at a cost of £115,000. Yesterday, forensic scientists were sifting through the embers. Until the attack security patrols had guarded

the structure until the late evening, but now a 24-hour guard will be mounted as it is rebuilt.

Mr. John Mumford, groundsman at the fields said: "There was damage to the dais last week. Someone tried putting tar on the panels and tried to light fires near it."

Det. Chief Supt. Don Carsley, head of the South Wales CID said: "We are treating this as an act of criminal damage and would like to interview the three youths who were seen running away."

Cardiff has a large Roman Catholic community which is fully integrated into its society and there have been few public misgivings about the papal visit.

Doubts still remained yesterday whether Harlech Television would be able to proceed with its ambitious plans to cover the event after the refusal by members of the association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians to complete identity forms as requested by the church authorities.

Dispute over Salerno mutiny

New challenge to ministry's version of events

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence was challenged yesterday over its version of wartime events almost 40 years ago which it issued with its recent decision not to grant a pardon to 189 British soldiers convicted of mutiny at Salerno, Italy, in 1943.

Controversy over the men's case has been revived since a BBC television documentary in February highlighted their plight. They were part of a contingent of 1,500 of General Montgomery's 8th Army troops brought from North Africa as reinforcements to assist the 46th and 56th Divisions in the crucial battle at Salerno for a foothold on the Italian mainland.

The television programme alleged that the men had been recovering from wounds suffered in Sicily and had been promised a return to their own units, a promise which was broken. They admitted disobeying a senior officer but denied it was mutiny.

The case was raised with the Ministry of Defence by MPs after the programme was screened. Mr. Jerry Wiggin, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, concluded in a letter to Mr. Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, earlier this month that after research by officials, there were no grounds for reopening the case.

In an account of the events Mr. Wiggin said there was nothing in the contemporary proceedings of the trial or in official records held by the Ministry to suggest that the men were misled about their eventual destination, and that no evidence had been brought forward that any of those convicted were unfit to fight.

Yesterday, however, those and other conclusions of Mr. Wiggin's letter were challenged in letters sent to the Ministry by Mr. Morris from Mr. Alan Patient, producer of the BBC documentary, and

from Mr. P. D. Rayner, of Gillingham, Kent, who was a prosecution witness at the young Royal Marine in HMS Scylla, one of the ships that took the men to Salerno.

Mr. Rayner, stating that the soldiers had been treacherously let down by the authorities, says they were "silhouettes of men" suffering from shell-shock and illness.

"We on the ship were completely amazed at the state of those troops and to a man we knew they would never be any good as a fighting force," Mr. Rayner writes.

Mr. Patient says there is ample evidence that the men were told they were going back to their own units; and the Ministry of Defence was implying that the 30 witnesses he had found, 23 of whom were mutineers, and six on the same draft of 1,500 reinforcements, were not telling the truth.

Most crucial of all, Mr. Patient says, Captain A. G.

Lee, who was the main prosecution witness at the court martial, had stated that only he and two other officers knew their destination, and that nobody else was to be told.

Mr. Patient suggests that the ministry documents about the despatch of the reinforcements are "possibly suspect."

On the vital point concerning injuries, Mr. Patient again quotes Captain Lee, who said on film: "We don't know what orders were given to the commandant of the 155 transit camp (from where the reinforcements were drafted) and therefore whether he got a little windy possibly, and if he did he perhaps had not got 1500 people in his camp and therefore people were then drafted from the hospitals and, as I said, ... came from the convalescent home."

Mr. Patient said that Captain Lee was himself so unable to fight that he had to report sick at Salerno.

Tocsin sounds for the barn owl

By Tony Samstag

The barn owl is one of nature's most beautiful and mysterious creatures. It is a bird of the night, and its calls are often heard in the darkness of the night.

More's the pity, then, that the World Wildlife Fund should be sounding the tocsin for this of all species, with the announcement that its numbers are decreasing at an alarming rate in Britain and much of Europe.

Not so coincidentally, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has launched a nest-box scheme for barn owls. "Undoubtedly one of the underlying causes of their disappearance is that many traditional nest sites in old trees and derelict buildings have been lost," the society writes. "Brick and timber barns are being replaced by modern steel-framed structures."

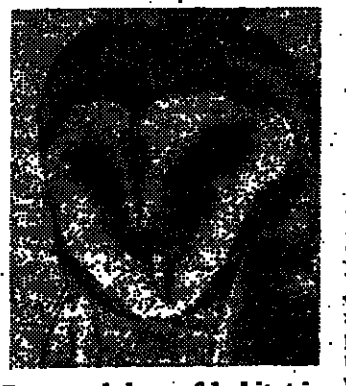
Statistics are incomplete but the RSPB survey completed in the early 1970s suggest that the number of barn owls in Britain might have halved in 40 years. Later studies have shown the rate of loss accelerating in the past decade or so. Intensive farming and the use of pesticides are also blamed for the decline.

Dr. Ian Taylor of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Edinburgh University, sees the trend to monoculture cereal production, the removal of rough ground and wetlands as contributing to a further loss of habitat.

His studies have also uncovered a curious relationship between habitat and mortality. "Mortality of adults seems to occur mostly in winter coinciding with prolonged periods of deep snow cover," he says.

The rate of mortality seemed to be related to the distance of the birds from sheepwalk, and much less on the birds on lowland farms."

Dr. Taylor thinks lowland areas are probably more promising for nest-site schemes, and he suggests that the large plastic drums



Barn owl: loss of habitat is threatening its existence.

available on most farms might make suitable nest boxes. Old barrels and packing cases would also be useful, according to the RSPB, which offer advice and instructions for installing them.

In 1976 there were thought to be between 4,500 and 9,000 pairs of barn owls in the British Isles. Most farmers, who in the past have welcomed the birds as natural agents of pest control, would probably consider these figures as optimistic as they are vague.

An irony of the nest-site scheme is that those who participate in it could inadvertently be breaking the law.

"The barn owl is included on Schedule 1 of the Protection of Birds Act," the RSPB says. "This means that both the bird and its eggs are specially protected by law, and if you intend to visit your nest boxes, you must obtain a special government permit."

"If you see that the box is occupied early in the breeding season, it is probably best to watch from a safe distance, thus avoiding disturbing the birds and the needs to become involved in such legalities."

Details of the scheme are available from RSPB, 10 Richmond Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 4JA.

Shop fined over leopard skin coat

From Our Correspondent Manchester

Animal lovers are launching a national campaign to stop illegal trading in furs after the successful prosecution yesterday of a fur shop for trying to sell a leopard skin coat.

The coat, priced at £3,999, was seen in the window of Raimond Furs, King Street, Manchester, by a member of the Protection and Conservation of Animals and Plant-life group (PCAP).

Mr. Daniel Lindsay, the group's European secretary, posed as a potential customer and got a written estimate of the coat's price from a shop assistant.

The estimate was used in evidence in yesterday's private prosecution brought by the group against the Bankruptcy Fur Company, the shop's owners.

Mr. Brian Woodhams, for the prosecution, told Liverpool magistrates: "People in this country and throughout the world are desperately concerned about the wholesale slaughter and destruction of animals whose extinction will be forever. This trade is a further step towards the total annihilation of endangered species."

The company admitted the offence and received a fine of £750, the biggest to be imposed under the Endangered Species Act, 1976.

Mr. Stephen Fox, for the company, said an administrative error left the firm open to prosecution. "This coat existed before the 1976 Act and it was offered for sale without a licence. But this was not a conspiracy to get round the act, to flout the law nor to endanger any animals."

Mr. Lindsay said that the case allowed his 5,000 members in Britain to launch a national campaign to stop the sale of all coats made from the skins of endangered animals.

He said: "Most in danger are the big cats—the leopard, tiger and panther."

"Many skins are smuggled into Britain and made up into coats for sale here and for export to Europe. But now our members will be calling at fur shops in Britain to make sure that any coats made from protected species have the necessary documents for sale."

INDEPENDENT TESTS PROVE THERM-A-STOR DOUBLE GLAZING IS BEST

At Therm-A-Stor we wanted to demonstrate the superiority of our new products. So we commissioned an independent laboratory to conduct thermal transmission tests on our own and competitors standard windows.

Insulation experts define heat loss in terms of U values. The lower the U value the more efficient the insulation. The test results, shown in the chart below, speak for themselves.

MANUFACTURER	DOUBLE GLAZING AIR GAP	FRAME MATERIAL	U VALUE	INSULATION EFFICIENCY % INDEX 100
Single Glazed window		Aluminium	5.8	100%
Therm-A-Stor 20mm	20mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	2.2	254%
Weatherseal 20mm	20mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	2.9	193%
Coldshield 12mm	12mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	3.0	187%
Everest 20mm	20mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	3.3	170%
Anglian* 9.5mm	9.5mm	Aluminium	3.7	151%

*Anglian also manufactures a Thermally Broken window.

The test results may be inspected at our offices by appointment upon a written request.

So tests prove Therm-A-Stor double glazed windows and doors represent excellent value for your money — and it's an entirely British product

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APRIL 27/82

Pyro Washington: Snags in Argentine plan

FALKLANDS

Mr. Foot, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is going to the Falkland Islands on Thursday to discuss the future of the islands with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, and the Prime Minister's Special Representative, Mr. Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, and the Prime Minister's Secretary of State, Mr. Denis Healey.

Mr. Foot said he could not say whether the Argentine proposals would be accepted or not, but he said he was sure that the Government would do its best to secure the best possible outcome for the Falkland Islands.

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fully informed, when he has been able, about precisely what they are. We have full details, Mr. Foot has heard what I indicated a moment ago. We regard this as a stage in the negotiating process which must now be continued.

Mr. Foot: When will you report to the House again on the matter? I hope that in these discussions we will be taking into full account the proposals by Mr. Denis Healey about involvement of the United Nations in this matter.

Mr. Foot: I do not think there is much point in reporting to the House before the Foreign Secretary has seen Mr. Haig in Washington.

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Thursday and will make a much fuller statement as often as we possibly can.

Mr. Norman St John-Stevas (Chelmsford, C): Her handling of the Falklands crisis with a combination of firmness and diplomacy has commanded the support of the vast majority of MPs.

Mr. St John-Stevas: I am grateful. We do remain committed to seeking a diplomatic solution, if one can possibly be found that is acceptable.

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Stevass: Majority support

Jenkins: Unrushed decisions

with both parties to the negotiations. It is in our interests that he should have that credibility but we all know that the United States, and ourselves, are democracies.

Mr. Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): Will she, in view of the strong all-party support which the Government has recently received during the past 2 1/2 weeks, bear in mind that she will be expected to take future decisions in a more equal non-party way, and this demands more than merely asking the Prime Minister's permission?

Mr. Jenkins: I must confess, I had expected a more fundamental point from Mr. Jenkins. Mr. Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, on the last occasion this came up, said: "I happen to believe rightly or wrongly that the Government will not find that an appropriate way to proceed."

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Silkin condemns Employment Bill and promises to repeal it

TRADE UNIONS

By the time the Employment Bill had completed its passage through the Commons more than 135 hours would have been spent debating it, Mr. John Silkin, Lord President of the Council, said when he moved a timetable motion on the Bill.

The motion provided that the standing committee stage of the Bill should be completed on or before April 22 and that the report stage and third reading be completed in two days, ending at 7 pm on the second day.

He said the Bill provided an appropriate legal framework to maintain a balance between trade union immunity to legislation and obligations to it.

Although it had been described as controversial as it touched upon the closed shop, immunity of trade union funds and the determination of trades disputes, he still believed it to be a modest measure in size and purpose.

The violence of the reaction to it said nothing about whether it was a good or bad law, but was an indication of the mental attitude of those who had for decades enjoyed certain privileges and saw them threatened.

There was a degree of other-worldliness about the motion debates and he anticipated that by the end of this one the House would be knee deep in tears of remorse, but when the Government was confronted with the difficulties of securing legislation there came a time when a balance had to be struck between the needs of the country and the interests of the individual.

There were important issues to be decided. For example, the union labour only requirement in contracts which was an oblique form of the closed shop, the bringing of trade union funds into line with the immunities for trade union officials, and the definition of a trade dispute and its consequent implications for the law.

The Bill and these considerations could not be lost in a quagmire of verbosity. The purpose of the motion was to ensure that the passage of the Bill was expedited so that the remaining important clauses could be properly debated.

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L) said that the Bill was a good one, but that it was a pity that it was being debated in such a hasty manner. He said that the Bill was a good one, but that it was a pity that it was being debated in such a hasty manner.

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Mr. John Silkin, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs (Leeds, Deptford, Lab), said that progress on the Bill had been fast. The slower progress made on the Bill within the parliamentary rules the better because it was the worst Bill to come before the House since the Industrial Relations Act, 1971, which it surpassed both in evil and in sheer division and contention.

The Secretary of State for Employment, Mr. Norman Tebbit, who was the architect, had clearly in mind what he wanted — to go back to the Taff Vale decision. The Opposition would resist the motion and the Bill. When the time came it would go into the dustbin of history as the 1971 Act had in its turn.

The Bill was one of the most divisive Bills one could possibly have. At a time when the Government was talking about national unity, to bring in a Bill like this, to carry on with it, to see that it went through against the wishes of the Opposition and at least half the population, possibly more, was to miss an opportunity that the Government should have taken.

Mr. Tebbit: Mr. Silkin overstated it when he said that the Bill was a bad one. After all, we had a majority of 106. That included several or parts of several of the several opposition parties. (Conservative laughter.) Mr. Silkin: There is only one Opposition, as Mr. Tebbit knows perfectly well. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. Reginald Prentice (Davenport, C) said that the Bill was a good one, but that it was a pity that it was being debated in such a hasty manner. He said that the Bill was a good one, but that it was a pity that it was being debated in such a hasty manner.

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79 village schools go in a year

EDUCATION

Social, educational and financial factors were taken into account when decisions were made about closing village schools, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said during questions in the Commons.

He had been asked how many small village schools had been permitted to close in the last 12 months, to which he replied that there were 79 closures in the period March 1, 1981, to February 28, 1982.

Mr. Alan Beith (Berwick

AUSTIN ROVER GROUP INVITE YOU: CHECK ALL THE FACTS

Before you make any decision on buying your next car, check all the facts.

Find out how much the initial price really is, its genuine running costs, and how much of its value it will retain.

Some of the Austin Rover facts are laid out here.

We challenge you to check the facts against the competition.

You be the judge; we know you'll go straight to your Austin Rover showroom.

The Price Facts:

Recent events in the motor industry have only served to highlight just how competitive Austin Rover prices have always been. These are the prices that spell real value for money.

Check the facts.

Austin Mini Saloons	from £2,999*
Austin Metro	from £3,250
Austin Allegro	from £3,900
Morris Ital	from £4,367
Triumph Acclaim	from £4,829
Austin Ambassador	from £5,106
Rover	from £7,450

The Fuel Economy Facts:

Austin Rover have always led the industry on outstanding fuel economy.

Because of their proven expertise, Austin Rover engineers have achieved these excellent economy figures to save you money, without sacrificing all-round performance.

Check the facts.

	MPG at 56 MPH
Austin Metro HLE (£4,300)	58.3
Austin Allegro 1.3L (£4,199)	49.6
Triumph Acclaim (£4,829)	48.8
Austin Mini City (£2,999)	48.5
Morris Ital 1.3L (£4,367)	45.0
Rover 2000 (£7,450)	42.6
Austin Ambassador 1.7L (£5,106)	42.0

The Service Facts:

The Austin Metro led the industry with 12,000 mile/

12 month servicing—a benefit now also enjoyed by the Rover and Austin Ambassador ranges.

The same engineering leadership has cut servicing costs on all Austin Rover Group cars.

Along with consistently lower spare parts pricing. All designed to save you money.

Check the facts.

The Insurance Facts:

With Austin Rover engineers working closely with the motor insurance industry on the development of less expensive methods and components for repair, we

ensure the most competitive insurance rating for every model. Check the facts.

The Specification Facts:

Austin Rover Group have moved rapidly in the last two years to make every model in their range a winner.

Across the range enhancements, from acoustic refinement to glamorous new clearcoat metallic paint choices, are combined with an exciting new model programme—the award-winning Austin Metro, the totally-equipped Triumph Acclaim, the advanced new Rovers, and the spacious, luxurious Austin Ambassador.

Take a look at our specifications.

Check the facts.

The Quality and Reliability Facts:

Austin Rover Group have invested massively in new standards of quality.

For example, the advanced, £275 million, high automation Metro plant at Longbridge, and the £35 million paint plant at Cowley, bringing world class standards in paint finish and corrosion protection.

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FALKLAND CRISIS

Pymsters clear of force at Brussels

By Murray, Brussels, April 20

The Foreign Ministers of the EEC confirmed their common position on the Falkland Islands crisis at a meeting in Brussels on Tuesday. The ministers, who met for a working lunch, heeded the request to give Mr Pym, the Foreign Secretary, a chance to explain Britain's position to his European partners.

Mr Pym, who arrived in Brussels on Monday, met the ministers at a working lunch, he said. He said that the British Government would find them acceptable.

He delicately avoided any reference to Britain having a moral recourse to drive the Argentine Army off the Falkland Islands. According to Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian External Relations Minister and the President of the Council of Ministers, no mention of military action had been made during the meeting.

This ensured that the occasion was a friendly and harmonious one. Several countries, notably Italy, had been severely tested in agreeing to the EEC embargo against Argentina last week, and it might have stretched to support for military action, has that been requested.

It was Mr Pym's first meeting with his fellow EEC Foreign Ministers and he sought it in order to give his thanks for the swift way in which the trade embargo had been applied. He also wanted to show that Britain was anxious to consult its partners about the actions it was taking.

His mission was seen as sufficiently important for the British Cabinet meeting, which was to discuss the American proposal, to be postponed until he returned from Brussels.

Mr Pym emphasized in his long explanation of the

problem that Britain was seeking to bring the maximum pressure to bear on the Argentine junta and that it was prepared to do everything to achieve a peaceful solution if this were possible.

If he did not seek support for any eventual British military action, he left his fellow ministers in no doubt about British resolve not to flinch from doing so. If it believed this was the only way of ensuring that the interests of the islanders were protected.

The British Cabinet decision had not been taken when the Foreign Ministers met, but Mr Pym was able to warn that there might well be very rough waters ahead before any dispute was settled. He was therefore asking for complete solidarity of the Community.

The short statement at the end of the meeting gave the solidarity and went on to confirm the EEC's desire to see United Nations Security Council Resolution 502 demanding the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Falklands — put into operation.

The statement ended by saying the ministers were anxious for the affair have a peaceful solution. It praised the efforts of Mr Haig to find such a solution and supported his work.

The heavy emphasis in the short statement on the urgency of finding a peaceful solution was a pointer to the fact that Britain's partners are less than happy about any suggestion that Britain should go to war. Britain is not prepared to give any undertaking to anyone that the task force will not go into action.

A British source said before the meeting that it would negate the point of sending the task force if there were any doubts about it being used if necessary. He said Britain was not asking its partners for a blank cheque, but Mr Pym did want to make it clear how determined the Government was.



H2 in the lead as landing craft from HMS Hermes exercise in the Atlantic

Navy may well rue sale of lethal Darts

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Britain could soon regret its decision to sell the Sea Dart guided missile to Argentina if fighting breaks out between the two navies, still separated by about 2,000 miles in the South Atlantic.

Not only is Sea Dart an effective long-range, anti-aircraft weapon designed to pick off hostile intruders of one's air space at sea; but it is also capable of crippling enemy ships.

Many experts at the Ministry of Defence believe that Sea Dart and the Type-42 destroyers which are designed to carry it, should never have been supplied to the Argentines — who remain the only other navy to have them.

Travelling at twice the speed of sound, Sea Dart is guided by radar to its target aircraft, which it can attack at high or medium altitude and at distances well in excess of the published range of 25 miles or so.

But it can also be directed to plunge down from a great height on to other ships, powered by its ramjet engine to hit the deck or superstructure with disabling force.

Trials conducted by its makers, British Aerospace Dynamics, are said to have demonstrated Sea Dart's ability to strike with such kinetic energy that, even without a warhead, the missile smashed through up to seven decks of a target vessel.

Argentina has two Type-42 destroyers, the 4,100-ton sister ships Hercules and Santissima Trinidad, the first of which was built by Vickers in Barrow-in-Furness, the second in South America. Ironically, British teams have been helping the Argentines to introduce the complex missile system to the Argentine Navy's conscript sailors.

Fortunately for the Royal Navy, the Argentines have not had much time to develop their skills with the missile — which according to British industry sources demands a trained operator. The number of missiles supplied so far is limited and an inexperienced crew could expend their arsenal without inflicting lethal damage. No missile is 100 per cent effective.

The Royal Navy's task force has the aircraft carrier Invincible and three Type 42 destroyers, the Sheffield, the Glasgow and the Coventry, all of which have a full

complement of Sea Dart and professional trained operators. The Royal Navy has — or is believed to have — up to four hunter-killer submarines in the area which could torpedo the aspirations of any encroaching Argentine destroyer before its crew have time to push the button.

But they might indeed have to do so, if only after shipwrecking the torpedo; but heads, to ensure the relative safety of the task force and its heavy investment of men and money.

Even then, safety would be very much "relative". About three modern Argentine frigates and four elderly American destroyers, are fitted with the French Exocet missile — a dedicated sea-skimming anti-ship missile — which is also in service with the Royal Navy. Exocet is not half as fast as Sea Dart, but still packs quite a punch.

Moreover, because it is a low-flying weapon it would strike a vessel around the waterline. Sea Dart might make a warship *hors de combat*; but Exocet, if it escapes the Sea Wolf anti-missile missiles on the task force's Type 22 frigates could actually sink it.

The Royal Navy's task force has the firepower, the expertise and the morale to defeat the small Argentine Navy in a sea battle should the crisis end in one.

However, it could well lose a ship on doing so. If that ship were a carrier like the Invincible or the Hermes, the loss of life and expensive investment (more than £200m in the Invincible with its aircraft and weapons) would be considerable.

Even a crippling blow would be a humiliating reverse for the fleet at a time when it needs to prove its value to a Government which is not without its doubters.

Britannia will not rule the waves in the South Atlantic as easily as many armchair strategists assume.

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IN SUMMARY

Falangists march for Gibraltar

About 20,000 people marched in a right-wing demonstration through Madrid to show support for the Argentine takeover of the Falkland Islands and demand the return of Gibraltar to Spain (our Madrid correspondent writes).

Banners and placards displayed at the rally on Monday evening organized by the fascist Falange, bore legends such as "Falklands for Spain", and "British pirates get out of the Falklands and Gibraltar".

Dozens of young men and women, wearing the blue shirts and red berets of the Falange youth movement, marched in military formation to Madrid's central Plaza de la Independencia where the demonstration began.

The blue and white flag of Argentina fluttered, along with the red and yellow flag of Spain and the red and black flag of the Falange.

Shouts in favour of Colonel Antonio Tejero, the Civil Guard officer who led the takeover of the Spanish Parliament in last year's attempted coup, mingled with others of "Spanish Gibraltar".

As the crowds began to file past the Army Museum, many of the marchers raised their right arms in the fascist salute and chanted "Vivas" for the Civil Guard forces.

Socialists want UN peace force

Socialist members of the European Parliament are calling for a United Nations peacekeeping force to be set up in the Falklands.

A resolution tabled by Mrs Barbara Castle, the Labour Minister in Strasbourg, also calls for a halt to the progress of the British naval task force and the simultaneous withdrawal of the Argentine invasion force.

But the move, one of a series of resolutions being hastily prepared for an emergency debate on the crisis today, has already upset Conservative representatives.

Mr Adam Ferguson, MEP for Strathclyde West, the Conservative spokesman, said that his colleagues would not back any resolution which could be interpreted as calling on Britain to retreat.

Defence lesson for Britain

The Falklands crisis has made a review of the Government's defence priorities necessary, Dr David Owen, the SDP's parliamentary leader, said last night (Henry Stanhope writes).

Speaking in Chichester after visiting Portsmouth Dockyard, he acknowledged that Britain would not have to shape the Royal Navy around the need to maintain a garrison on the disputed islands.

The real lesson, however, was that Britain's main contribution to Nato should be to the alliance's maritime strategy. The Government's folly had been in giving a higher priority to land forces.

The crisis had demonstrated the power and flexibility of nuclear-powered submarines.

Mr Buenos Aires: Mr Tony Prime, one of three British journalists held by the Argentine authorities, believed to have been questioned by a Federal Court judge on Monday over allegations that he had been spying (Christopher Thomas writes).

The photographer with The Observer is said to have been questioned for three hours in Ushuaia in the south of the country. Mr Simon Winchester of The Sunday Times and Mr Ian Mather of The Observer were expected to be questioned yesterday or today.

Paras delayed

The embarkation at Hull of the 900 men of the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment on board the requisitioned MV Norland (12,500 tonnes) has been put back 24 hours until tomorrow. No explanation was made for the delay.

OVERSEAS NEWS

'Chicago boys' blamed

Chile's economy in grip of recession

As the political and economic problems facing Chile intensified, the entire Cabinet of President Augusto Pinochet resigned on Monday. An official communiqué said that the President did not intend to change his economic policies or to devalue the peso. Florencia Varas reports from Santiago on economic difficulties.

The great hopes for economic recovery endangered by the military regime headed by President Pinochet and his economic team of "Chicago boys", who brought professor Milton Friedman's theories to Chile, have begun to crumble. There are growing doubts about the Friedman economic model and about the country's future.

"The present problems are so serious that it is difficult to look anywhere but at the situation of the moment. It is disconcerting to feel that businessmen cannot see a clear future and only think of how to get by the next day," says Alfonso Silva, president of the Social Union of Christian Businessmen, said.

The word "recession" has become a part of daily conversation and it is calculated that it will last nine to 12 months here. Some 61 Chilean industrial enterprises went bankrupt last month, and this figure brings the total of bankruptcies for the first quarter of 1982 to 124. In 1981, 431 business went bankrupt.

The invasion of the Falkland Islands has made Chileans forget for a few days that the country is going through a very difficult financial situation. But they have suddenly become aware of the harsh economic reality. Chilean bankers who approved the financial markets in search of loans are confronted with unexpected difficulties. Doors that were open before are now closed. Some financiers have been refused loans, while others are granted much smaller sums than they were requesting.

While last year an average of \$243m (£137m) flowed into the country every month, only \$114m has been obtained by Chile in the first two months of this year.

There also an evident lack of confidence on the part of the international banking community which is compounded by the mounting criticism of the domestic economic model, previously so highly praised by Chilean businessmen.

Chile is now suffering from the consequences of a foreign trade policy which was put into practice two years ago. The policy meant opening the doors to imported goods without restrictions and practically without tariffs. When this policy was introduced, many Chileans who had had foreign trade experience asked the question: "How is it possible that after 48 years of having imports geared to our limited payments facilities we have suddenly become so rich in foreign exchange that we have almost unlimited licence to import?"

In fact, no new foreign exchange resources were on tap at the time, and the only way to carry out such a bold policy was to acquire massive foreign loans. In this context, the country was forced to create a free market that would attract foreign investors who would come and develop new sources of income in foreign exchange.

However, because of the high interest rates in Chile the investors who were lured to the country were not interested in investing in industry but merely using their capital as short-term loans on the lucrative financial market. This, coupled with the sharply fixed price of the dollar, discouraged the growth of the export industry.

As a result, not only were no new productive sources of foreign exchange created, but the existing vital activities in agriculture, mining and industry were destroyed by the irresistible foreign competition. The economic policy followed its inevitable course to the present crisis.

A reduction in defence spending would appeal to many but has not been openly voiced. The defence budget for 1982 was \$1,568m (without reserve funds). This has now been cut by 2.6 per cent. The reduction of funds for public utilities, on the other hand, has topped 15 per cent.

Convicted minister to quit Cabinet

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, April 20

Mr Aharon Abuhatzira, the Prime Minister today and informed him of his decision and then announced it to journalists waiting outside. His move releases Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, of a delicate problem as he was under pressure to dismiss the minister.

The Tami Party's Central Committee yesterday endorsed the minister as party leader, but he said he believed he could persuade the institutions to let him resign. He said he wanted to be free to prepare for his appeal to the High Court and he felt in the meantime his ministries should be represented at the Cabinet table.

He has taken leave of his Government duties since the start of his trial and Mr Begin took over temporary responsibilities for his three ministries.

He declined to comment on attempts by his political backers to build up his case as an "ethnic affair", with the European-dominated establishment out to get him because he was a North African.

Stoessel claims progress

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, April 20

Mr Walter Stoessel, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, said today progress had been made in his efforts to save the peace pact between Egypt and Israel.

He ended seven hours of negotiations in Egypt by meeting President Hosni Mubarak and his aides. "We have had very friendly, very cordial and very constructive talks", Mr Stoessel said. "I believe we have made progress and that things are moving well. I am optimistic about the outcome."

Mr Stoessel came to the area almost a week ago at the instruction of President Reagan, as both countries showed signs of increased strain over the withdrawal from the Sinai. He has been shuttling between Cairo and Jerusalem and flew back to Israel today, saying he could not tell if a return trip to Egypt would be needed.

Among the areas of dispute are sovereignty over a 600 to 1,000 square yard area south of the Israeli port of Eilat, and whether the Egyptians will reaffirm in writing their commitment to the peace pact in order to allow the Israeli army to return to the Arab ranks after the withdrawal.

Successes claimed for abortion pill

By Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 20

The discovery of an after-conception pill by a group of French scientists has opened the way to a new method of abortion, less traumatizing and damaging to health than existing ones.

Professor Etienne-Emile Baulieu, the director of a research unit at the Institute for Medical Research, the French Academy of Science, said that the experiments were carried out in Switzerland. The new substance, an anti-progesterone steroid, RU486, the formula of which remains secret, had proved very effective.

The drug was tested on 11 women volunteers who were between six and eight weeks pregnant. Nine abortions had been provoked with the abortion pill. The first two milligrams of the drug a day over four days in the form of two to four capsules.

The RU 486 has also proved a very effective means of contraception. Professor Baulieu explained that the new substance, a hormone compound, worked on a very simple principle. It prevented one of the two female hormones, the progesterone, from playing its essential part in the implantation of the embryo in the uterus.

A great number of conclusive tests of its contraceptive effect were carried out first on animals and afterwards on women. "What we do is combat the progesterone through the cells upon which it works," he explained. By administering the substance to non-pregnant women, normal menstruation was produced within 48 hours.

The following menstrual cycle was found to be thoroughly normal.

A large number of further clinical tests will be necessary on the new substance, to establish the reasons for its failure to act in some cases after-effects, and those cases in which it could not be prescribed. If these prove conclusive, the drug could be on the market in three years and would revolutionize existing methods of contraception.

The World Health Organization and the Ford Foundation have expressed keen interest in the discovery, and asked to participate in these clinical tests.

Clergy split threatens Iran regime

By Hazhir Teimourian

The denunciation of Ayatollah Kazem Shariat-Madari, aged 83, one of Iran's most respected religious leaders, as a participant in an alleged plot against the life of Ayatollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader, is likely to create a gulf among the ruling elite of Shia clergy which could combine with other factors to bring about the downfall of the regime.

Normally it would have been expected that Ayatollah Khomeini would conceal any intrigues against him by his rivals in the interests of presenting a united front on behalf of the clergy.

But preparations are now being made for the election of an assembly of experts who will choose a council of grand ayatollahs to succeed him. He may therefore have been tempted to isolate the opponents of his particular brand of political Islam to prevent them from being elected to the future council.

The denunciation of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari was made by Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, the former Foreign Minister, who was arrested two weeks ago in connection with the alleged plot when he appeared on television claiming that the ayatollah had been aware of the plot and had promised to support it.

Subsequently a statement by a group of pro-Khomeini religious leaders in the holy city of Qom was broadcast over the state radio and television, stating the condemnation of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari as an agent of the Islamic Republic and as one who did not deserve to be a "Supreme Source of Following" for the faithful.

Mr Ayre Naor, a former Israeli Cabinet secretary, reacted angrily before a Civil Service disciplinary tribunal in Jerusalem today, when the prosecutor tried to stop him from discussing his anti-German feeling. Mr Naor attempted to discredit testimony by Mr Ranan Lurie, the cartoonist, that he sought a job with the West German newspaper Die Welt.

He said his attitude to Germans was illustrated when he spat at Dr Konrad Adenauer, who was then Chancellor, when the latter was visiting Israel. He saw the chancellor as a representative of the SS and the murderers of his family.

Mr Michael Kirsh, the prosecutor, said this was irrelevant and Mr Naor shouted "You cannot muzzle me in this matter. It is my soul. This subject is in my bones." The hearing was interrupted to allow Mr Naor to calm down.

Later he admitted giving Mr Lurie a story about a conversation between Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and President Carter, but said it had already appeared in an Israeli newspaper.

Mr Naor is charged with "unbecoming behaviour" on the basis of allegations by Mr Laurie, now the Israeli cartoonist, that he had offered him \$500,000 in the hope of being given a job with Die Welt, which Mr Laurie then represented.

Israeli 'spat at Adenauer'

From Our Correspondent, Tel Aviv, April 20

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MPs' snaps may yield landing site

By Anthony Bevins

Military intelligence yesterday called an MP to the Ministry of Defence so that they could examine photographs and other material gathered during a parliamentary visit to the Falkland Islands last September.

Mr Eric Ogden, Social Democratic MP for Liverpool, West Derby, and Mr Michael Sherby, Conservative MP for Uxbridge, visited the islands under the sponsorship of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Mr Ogden said yesterday that he had gone on the trip at the request of a Foreign Office minister of state, "to reassure the islanders of Britain's continuing interest and support, and to ascertain their views on future talks with Argentina".

He had received a call from the Ministry of Defence last week, expressing an interest in any photographs he might have taken of the islands.

Mr Ogden said: "We were taken on a coast-hopping trip in a Beaver seaplane and took many photographs of the bays, beaches, headlands and settlements from the air. It seems that penguins and invaders like the same kind of beaches."

He added that it was quite fascinating, in the light of the current crisis and with the task force heading south, to look at the photographs of possible invasion sites on the islands.

Mr Ogden has been told by the ministry that his "items" would be carefully examined and officials would let him know "if any of them could be of use to the intelligence people".

The Liverpool MP also stated that the Falkland Islands Office in London had also been asked for contacts who might have maps and photographs which could be of intelligence interest for invading forces.

Shadow fleet

The Royal Navy has now requisitioned or chartered 35 civilian ships "to support and augment" the Falkland Islands task force. The official list, issued by the Defence Ministry, shows they include 19 tankers, cruise ships, cargo vessels, trawlers and tugs.

REQUISITIONED
P & O liner Canberra (44,807 tons), troop carrier and hospital ship; P & O roll-on, roll-off cargo ship, EN (15,623), transporting armoured vehicles; P & O schools cruise ship Uganda (16,907) hospital ship. All are at sea.

Tugs: Salvageman (1,598), Irishman (686), Yorkshireman (886). All belong to United Towing and all are at sea.

Trawlers, fitted as mine-sweepers with Royal Navy crews: Northalla (1,238), Farnella (1,207), Junella (1,615), Cordelia (1,238). All belong to J. Marr Ltd of Hull, and are at sea, with the exception of Farnella which is at Hull. Pict (1,478), a trawler which will act as support ship, belonging to British United Trawlers is also at sea.

Cargo vessels for transport of equipment: Stena Seaspread, North Sea support ship belonging to Stena UK, (6,061) at sea; P & O roll-on, roll-off ferry Norland (12,988) now loading at Hull; Townsend Thoresen's Turcup terry (4,180) loading at Southampton; Finncor Norway freighter (21,267) at sea; Cunard's Atlantic Conveyor, roll-on roll-off ship (14,945) is at Devonport.

Tankers: Esk (15,642), Tamar (15,642), Tay (15,650), Test (16,653). (All owned by BP and at sea). The BP Test, of similar tonnage, is in Loch Strin, and BP Tamar is at Portland being fitted out. Esso Fawley (11,064), BP Wye (15,649), BP Avon (15,540), G.A. Walker, owned by Canadian Pacific (18,744). All are at sea. Shell Burma (19,763), BP Ivy (13,271), BP (13,252), Swedish-owned Cortina (6,499), Luminetta, owned by Cunard (14,925), Ironman — no details of ownership supplied — (3,623), Fort Toronto, owned by Canadian Pacific (19,982) freshwater tanker.

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Successes claimed for abortion pill

By Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 20

The discovery of an effective abortion pill by a group of French scientists has been hailed as a triumph over the forces of conservatism and the Church. The pill, known as RU-486, is a chemical that causes the abortion of a fetus in the early stages of pregnancy. It is taken orally and is effective in about 90 per cent of cases. The scientists who developed the pill are from the French Medical Research Institute in Paris. They claim that the pill is safe and effective, and that it is a major breakthrough in the field of reproductive medicine. The pill is expected to be available in France by the end of the year. It is expected that it will be widely used, and that it will lead to a significant reduction in the number of abortions performed. The pill is also expected to be used in other countries, and it is expected to be a major factor in the debate over abortion rights.

Balancing act by Polish bishops on visit by Pope

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 20

Will the Pope visit Poland as planned this August? That is the question dominating church strategists in Warsaw and will be one of the principal themes of talks between Archbishop Józef Glemp, the Polish Primate, and the Pope scheduled to take place in the Vatican next month.

The Church is having to balance two elements on the one hand, the Pope's visit would give great encouragement to the Polish people and strengthen the church's position in its negotiations with the Polish Government. His visit to Poland two years ago was a landmark in the church's opposition to the country and was a contributing factor to the birth of Solidarity, the free trade union. On the other hand, a papal visit would be seen by the Government as an endorsement of its legitimacy and a legitimisation of its rule.

A decision on the visit has been delayed for as long as possible—the religious point of the trip is the 600th anniversary of the miracle of the Madonna of Czestochowa—but Church-state relations have now reached a crucial phase. Church sources believe further postponement of an announcement may thus create more problems than it solves.

The Church has presented an important strategy document, now circulating among the country's bishops, that goes some way towards creating a bridge with the Government. It recognises that Solidarity has made mistakes and that some form of social contract involving both the Government and trade unions is a desirable goal.

Although it lays the responsibility on the Government to create a suitable atmosphere for talks, by releasing internal documents, for example, it accepts that there are certain constraints on the Church's actions.

Reformist Communist politicians said privately last week that the document was a useful negotiating base. The Pope will now be expected to give his approval to it, and both the Government and the Church are expected to discuss it during a joint meeting in early May.

The outcome of these talks will prove to be the key element in the decision about whether to allow the Pope's visit to go ahead. If the Vatican can be assured that the Government is prepared to reach a socially acceptable compromise in a new trade union structure, then the risk of the Pope "legitimising" a repressive regime will be less acute.



'Smile...'

Schmidt tries to reunite his party

From Patricia Clough
Munich, April 20

With an uncharacteristic touch of humility, Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today urged his critics and supporters to stand by him in the face of the trial last week, even the most hardened critics among the 40 accused present (out of 63) agreed to a degree of collaboration with the court.

Their conduct throughout the day's proceedings was much calmer than at most of the trial involving leaders of the Red Brigades. The behaviour was imposed by Mario Moretti, still the undisputed leader of the militant wing of the Brigades. He was reputedly the interrogator of the former Prime Minister during the 55 days of Moro's captivity, as well as having been responsible for the decision to kill him.

Moro was kidnapped on March 16 four years ago. The 63 accused are charged with his kidnapping and murder and 16 other murders, including the five men of his bodyguard.

The Government was open to the party's criticism and advice. He reassured Social Democrats that the party should always be ahead of government in its ideas, not trailing meekly in its wake. But at the same time he begged members to realize that those in government had a responsibility to the whole country and less freedom of action.

He urged the congress to reject proposals for a moratorium on the stationing of new Nato medium-range nuclear missiles during the United States-Soviet negotiations on arms reductions in Geneva. The negotiations would be successful only if Moscow could expect the deployment of American weapons in Western Europe from the end of 1983, he said. "What reason could the Soviet Union have otherwise to negotiate seriously?"

He reminded the congress that the issue was a question of principle for him, but refrained from repeating his threat to resign if it withdrew its support on this issue.

To members who advocate unilateral nuclear disarmament, he said: "A one-sided lack of power does not prevent aggression by the stronger party. Neighbours of the Soviet Union have already had this experience. And so have our neighbouring states of the aggressive Hitler dictatorship."

The Chancellor warned the congress that the tone and method of internal disputes was weakening the Social Democratic Party and costing it public support. He appealed for "multiplicity in discussion but unity in action."

Like Herr Willy Brandt, the party's chairman who spoke yesterday, called for "a great new effort", realism and "a renewal of our feeling of togetherness".

Why Italian terror will not go away

From Peter Nichols Rome, April 20

As some of the most chilling figures in Italian terrorism lie back tomorrow into their cages, with the resumption here of the trial of Aldo Moro's alleged killers, the inevitable question hanging over the improvised courtroom is: What next?

At the opening of the trial last week, even the most hardened killers among the 40 accused present (out of 63) agreed to a degree of collaboration with the court.

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Mauroy defends his style of governing

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 20

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, has felt it necessary to justify, in a lengthy article in *Le Monde*, his method of running the Government, which has been under increasing attack from many sides, and not only by his political opponents. It is in accordance, he says, "with the democratic options of the left".

President Mitterrand might use tomorrow's Cabinet meeting to give his views on the matter.

The controversy between M. Robert Badinter, the Minister of Justice, and M. Bastien Deferre, the Minister of the Interior, over the extent of police powers has once again brought into question the cohesion of the Socialist administration, the coherence of its policy, and the ability of the Prime Minister to impose both upon it.

M. Lionel Jospin, the First Secretary of the Socialist Party, did not consider it desirable that individual ministers should expatiate at length and in public on their own convictions. "That debate must be confined to the Cabinet," he said.

Mauroy writes: "Where the practice of our predecessors had turned the members of the Government into docile and interchangeable interpreters of a score in which they had no say more than 20 years of opposition have made it possible (for the left) to produce strong personalities who are not afraid to state and to defend their standpoint."

He goes on: "It is my duty as Prime Minister to arbitrate when divergencies arise, and to decide when difficulties appear. That is what I do, and I do not consider it desirable for the Government to suddenly impose decisions which have not been previously debated. That is the choice of democracy."

While different policy options remain open, they must be put to the country without consultation. "On the other hand, when the choice is made and the decision taken, the Government is jointly responsible for its implementation and does not tolerate any breach of solidarity."

However, valid in theory, this distinction does not altogether agree with the present Government's practice on several recent occasions.

The question was prompted by press disclosures that the police were aware beforehand that the Basque separatist organization ETA was planning to attack a target in Madrid with explosives last weekend and that the telephone company did not include the exchange—the country's most important on its priority list for special security measures.

Two other parliamentary groups, the conservative Democratic Coalition and the Catalan minority, said they would call for a debate in the Congress of Deputies, on the terrorist issue.

The meeting between top military and police officials was the second in two days, motivated by the Government's decision last Sunday to put into practice exceptional anti-terrorist measures.

The increase in political violence began last Wednesday with a bazooka attack on a police barracks in San Sebastian.

In the past six days, there have been six more attacks, resulting in the death of one policeman and injury to at least 13 people. Damages at the telephone centre in Madrid amounted to more than £5.5m.

A Madrid court sentenced the mayor and four other members of the town council of the Basque town Larrabezua, near Bilbao, to one year in prison for "offending the chief of state". The five had passed a motion in the council last year disapproving of King Juan Carlos's plans to visit Guernica because he was "unworthy to tread on Basque soil".

In Pamplona, a court sentenced a labourer to six months and one day in jail for setting fire to a Spanish flag while under the influence of drink.

At Tarragona, the scientists' town, he insisted on the solid achievements of France in the fields of research and technology, and on the possibilities of fruitful cooperation in the long term. Opinions are indications that he made some impact on that score.

Letter from Peking

China luxuriates in its pre-Mao past

People have different ways of unwinding from the strains of modern living: meditation, television, or just a long walk in the country.

In Peking nowadays one can resort to such refined enjoyment as sitting in contemplation of a 45-ton bronze bell inscribed inside and out with Buddhist sutras and said to be audible 20 miles away when struck, or browsing through a selection of millions of imperial archives in one of the world's first fire-proofed buildings.

Life in the Chinese capital is being gradually enriched by the restoration and opening of dozens of buildings and historic sites closed to the public in the early stages of the Cultural Revolution more than 15 years ago.

Money is becoming available for this work in impressive amounts. The old skills and handicrafts are mostly remembered, and are being handed down by the old practitioners to apprentices.

Whether it be the restoration of a delicate scroll by actually burning rice-wine on its surface, or digging up the remains of an eighteenth-century palace in the style of the Italian baroque, there is ample enthusiasm and loving care to be tapped.

This is of considerable social and psychological importance for the Chinese people of today.

Mao Tse-tung wanted the common people to be "poor and blank" so that he could write his revolutionary patterns on their minds. But this was a tremendous under-assessment of his fellow-countrymen.

Revolutionary or capitalist, most Chinese people value their cultural heritage enormously, be it only in the form of rustic marriage customs, clan lineages, or reciting ballads. No other people in the world are so closely linked to so much of their past, and it is reassuring that this link has survived the political upheavals of the past century.

The biggest Buddhist temple, containing a statue of the Buddha more than 70ft high, and said to be carved from the trunk of one enormous tree brought all the way from distant Sichuan province—is open to visitors, with a few tattered Mongolian monks in attendance.

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David Bonavia

Puzzle of Spain's lack of security

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, April 20

The chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force met representatives of the Unified Anti-terrorist Command in Madrid today to coordinate the takeover of certain police duties by the armed forces.

Government came under political criticism in connexion with the recent increase in terrorism.

Communist MP's agreed to question the Government in Parliament about the lack of security precautions at the automatic telephone exchange which was destroyed here last Sunday by Basque extremists and about security arrangements at other communication installations.

The question was prompted by press disclosures that the police were aware beforehand that the Basque separatist organization ETA was planning to attack a target in Madrid with explosives last weekend and that the telephone company did not include the exchange—the country's most important on its priority list for special security measures.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

EEC seeks farm deal

Brussels. — The agricultural ministers of the 10 EEC countries resumed their weary negotiations in Luxembourg to try to agree farm price rises (Ian Murray writes).

British insistence on knowing how much it will have to pay means that a final decision over the next three days is impossible, but many of the details could be agreed.

Policeman jailed in S Africa

Johannesburg. — Inspector Petrus Bronkhorst of the South African police, who lashed a taxi driver and three women, one of whom was pregnant, last Sunday, was sentenced to 17 months' imprisonment.

Spanish coup trial adjourned for week

Madrid. — The Spanish coup trial was adjourned for a week to give the prosecution and the defence time to prepare their summing-up.

The two-month-old trial was originally expected to be over by the end of this month, but Señor Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, said he does not expect sentences to be passed until late next month or early in June.

Spy charges dropped

Copenhagen. — The Danish Ministry of Justice has dropped espionage charges against Mr Arne Herlov Petersen, aged 38, author and left-wing activist (Christopher Follett writes).

He was arrested and remanded in custody for three days last November, charged with helping Mr Vladimir Merkulov, an expelled Soviet diplomat, in subversive activities.

Cuba travel banned

Washington. — The United States Government has banned business and pleasure travel to Cuba in an effort to limit the flow of American dollars to the country. Mr John Walker, Assistant Treasury Secretary, accused Cuba of "sponsoring armed violence against our friends and allies."

Kidnap victim freed

Taranto. — Kidnappers have set free Signor Raffaele Fico, aged 34, an Italian businessman abducted five months ago after his family paid a ransom of 850m lire.

Russians launch second laboratory into orbit

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, April 20

The Russians yesterday launched a new space laboratory, Salyut 7, which will be used by a mixed Soviet-French crew this summer.

The working research laboratory, sent up from the Baikonur Space Centre in Kazakhstan, replaces the ageing 19-tonne Salyut 6, which was used by other mixed crews drawn from the Soviet Union's communist allies under the Interkosmos programme.

Tass reported today that all systems were functioning normally, and Salyut 7 is now orbiting the Earth every 90 minutes, 170 miles out in space.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Loup Chrétien, aged 43, a French Air Force pilot, will be sent up with two Soviet cosmonauts to the laboratory in June in the first East-West joint expedition since the 1975 Soviet-American link-up between the Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft. Colonel Chrétien has been training for the mission at the Soviet Space Centre in Moscow, together with his understudy, Commander Patrick Baudry, for the past two years.

Salyut 7, like its predecessor launched in 1977, will be used for scientific experiments. Tass said it would test modernized systems and equipment or the orbiting station, as well as being used for technical research.

All the systems will be checked and tested in two months by a preparatory two-man Soviet crew who will reach the space laboratory a few days before the Franco-Soviet team arrives on a Soyuz 7 spacecraft, an updated version of the module used in earlier Soviet manned expeditions.



Dr Sally Ride, aged 30, the astrophysicist who is to be America's first woman in space

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RESHUFFLE IN CYPRUS

Nicosia, April 20. — Mr Spyros Kyprianou, the President of Cyprus, today dropped five of his 11 Cabinet ministers, reshuffled three others and announced he would seek re-election when his current five-year term of office expires.

Only Mr Nicos Rolandis, the Foreign Minister, Mr Christodoulos Veniamin, the Interior Minister, and Mr Stathos Cateforis, Minister to the President, survived the reshuffle. Reuters

Afghan war lull

Delhi, April 20. — Soviet and Afghan forces regained control from Muslim rebels in the strategic district around Pagan, 12 miles north-west of Kabul, over the past week when heavy military activity resumed after a winter lull, diplomatic sources said here today.

Soviet and Afghan armour were reported around the rebel stronghold of Khoja Mufaser, a village near Pagan. — Reuters

Singapore seeks greater control of press

From David Watts, Kuala Lumpur, April 20

Singapore has launched a series of manoeuvres intended to rationalize its press, which will ultimately leave no leading newspaper free of strong government influence.

The republic already has stringent laws and a system of annual licences for the publication of newspapers which ensure that opposition to the Government is muted. But Mr Lee Kuan Yew's Government has been concerned for a long time at what it felt was the poor quality of the press and is moving rapidly to take greater control of the situation.

This is the background to an announcement today that the leading English-language morning daily in the island, *The Straits Times*, is to loan its evening title, the *Singapore Free Press*, to the *Singapore Nation*, to the *Singapore Monitor* Limited. It was also announced that the two highly competitive Chinese-language morning newspapers, *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, are to merge.

The ultimate aim is to have *The Straits Times* publish one English-language daily and one Chinese-language evening paper financed principally by the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation, while the rival Ministry company publishes the *New Nation* as an evening paper and a Chinese-language morning paper.

The *Monitor* company's principle shareholders are the two current Chinese-language newspapers, the *Government Development Bank of Singapore* and two other Chinese banks.

Today's announcement follows the appointment as executive chairman of *The Straits Times* board of Mr S. R. Nathan, a former head of intelligence and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Nathan's appointment was strongly resisted by the board.

Relations between the board of the company and the People's Action Party (PAP) Government have never been comfortable since the newspaper opposed Mr Lee Kuan Yew's rise to power in Singapore in the early days of independence.

There was also resentment at the poor quality of the *Straits Times* which, with a monopoly of the English-language morning market, has been a very profitable newspaper for a long time; so much so that about two years ago the Government encouraged the establishment of a rival morning newspaper, to be called *The Singapore Monitor*.

But now, *The Singapore Monitor* is unlikely ever to see the light of day,

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A Times Investigation/Frances Gibb on a murder which was solved all too easily

Why Paul Cleeland deserves a retrial

THE MURDER

In their determination to find the killer, the police may have entangled themselves in a web of mistakes

Shortly before two o'clock in the morning of November 5, 1972, Terry Clarke, a 30-year-old man, was shot dead at close range with a shotgun in the cul-de-sac behind his house. The killer ambushed him as he returned home at night. He was wearing a dark suit and a dark tie, and was carrying a briefcase. He was shot in the chest and died almost instantly. The police found the body at 11.30 pm on the day of the murder. The man charged with his murder was Paul Cleeland, a 30-year-old man, a former prisoner, and a petty criminal. He was found guilty in June 1973, at a retrial after a first jury failed to agree a verdict, and is now serving a 20-year life sentence.

From the moment of his arrest, Cleeland has vigorously protested his innocence. He is not a man of unblemished background who inadvertently became involved through bad luck. Both he and the victim were from the same area, and he was a friend of the victim. But he is convinced that he was involved in a conspiracy to find the killer, the police may have entangled themselves in a web of mistakes. He knows who was responsible, but he will not name them for fear of reprisals against both his family and himself, were he to be freed.

Insisting he had been framed, Cleeland conducted his own defence and in 1976 took his case to the Court of Appeal. It was dismissed. "This is clearly one of those cases," said Lord Justice Lawton, "where a number of cunning criminals have got together to concoct a spurious and, on the face of it, credible story to discredit the police."

But the appeal judge did not admit as evidence, a sequence of disturbing events since Cleeland's trial involving errors in his prison records. These led to an internal inquiry headed by Mr. E. J. Boothby, Assistant Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, who was called in after allegations by Cleeland that the errors were deliberate and the police evidence which led to his conviction was false.

If Cleeland's story is true, it is a story of a man who, with a degree of resentment against the police and prison authorities, is hardly surprising. The report remains secret. The Home Office refuses to release it, despite repeated requests from MPs, because it might reveal rules. Yet it could throw light both on what a prominent QC called the "quite unusual number of blunders in connection with the police evidence", in particular, the discrepancies between the police and the police, and on "the extraordinary coincidence of apparently false prison records, affecting or reasonably calculated to affect Mr. Cleeland's appeal". Above all, it could provide the basis for a retrial.

An independent forensic scientist commissioned by The Times to give a preliminary opinion on Cleeland's case has come out in support of the prisoner's claim for a retrial. Dr. Julius Grant, secretary of the Society of Forensic Medicine, calls the conflicting ballistic evidence of experts "most disturbing". He says it would appear to provide Mr. Cleeland with ample reasons for wanting his case reopened and on purely scientific grounds I cannot do other than support this.

THE ARREST

Cleeland sent out from prison to get as much underworld information about the killing as he could

"In the early hours of November 5, 1972 I was woken by knocking on my front door," Cleeland says. It was the police. "They informed me that a man named Terry Clarke had been shot and killed and asked me if I would be prepared to help with their inquiries." At the station he was asked to make a statement. "To this day I have never changed one line that was written down by the officer."

The police produced what was then one of their only pieces of evidence against him. A woman had allegedly seen him enter his house at 2.30 am on November 5. It turned out to be a neighbour well-known to Cleeland. "I proceeded to say that this woman and her husband were a right pair and that I had had trouble with them since I had moved into my home about a year previous. I said this was not the first time this woman had told the police stories about me and that it was only the presence of an independent witness on a previous occasion that

stopped the police taking action against me regarding what this woman had told them."

While at the station he met Pat Clarke, wife of the dead man. She had seen the killer but not recognised him. He says she told Cleeland: "the person who had fired the gun was about six feet away from Terry and about 20 feet from her". He was "about five feet eight inches, had short dark hair and was wearing a dark suit with a vest in the back."

Cleeland who is fair and about 5 feet 11 inches, returned home. Later that day the police came back and again asked him to go to the station. This time he was placed in the cells and on November 7 charged with murder. He stood trial early in April 1973 and the jury failed to agree a verdict.

Before the next trial, Cleeland says he "sent out" from prison to get as much information about the killing as he could. What came back from his underworld contacts was that the shotgun being shown at the trial — a "Gye" Moncrieff 12-bore picked up near the murder scene — was not that used to kill Clarke. Second, that two people took part in the killing; one doing the actual killing, the other acting as a "minder". He was told they used a pump rifle (sawn off) and that they used Clarke's own Rover car which he had previously reported stolen. They went down into Essex and dumped the gun in a weir at Harlow. The "minder" was also armed with a sawn-off shotgun and that, too, was dumped in the weir. He also learned that the cartridges used were Ely cartridges; not Blue Rival, as claimed by the police.

Three weeks after Cleeland's trial, according to the notebook of Detective Inspector John Ratcliffe who was in charge of the scene of the crime — two shotguns were recovered from the weir at Harlow, and one was a Westernfield 12-bore repeater.

It was at this point, Cleeland says, that the police realised how difficult things were getting. He felt he had been arrested initially not as a direct suspect but in an effort to get him to talk and had been charged so that he could be kept inside. When the police believed to be the real murder weapon was found in Harlow weir, the charge against him should have been dropped, he says. Instead, he maintains, the police decided to take a gamble and put up a case against him. But that case contains one glaring inconsistency.

Det Insp Ratcliffe records in his notebook that on the morning of November 7 he took to the Metropolitan Police Laboratory in London at 10.30 am in oral evidence two spent Blue Rival cartridges found with the "Gye" Moncrieff 12-bore picked up near the murder scene; 18 live Blue Rival cartridges found near by; and the hand stock of the gun. These were examined by Mr. John McCafferty, then principal scientific officer of the laboratory, who said that wadding found near Clarke's car could have come from Blue Rival cartridges. They were returned to Stevenage police station according to the exhibits book, on the 15th.

But another officer, Detective Sergeant Norman Atkinson, the police photographer, said in evidence that on that day, at 7.15, he took photographs of the scene of the crime until about 11.30 am; then went to Stevenage police station where he collected a shotgun and a quantity of cartridges from Det Insp Ratcliffe himself. He took these to police headquarters at Welwyn Garden City where they were photographed. The photographs show clearly the handstock of the gun, and the cartridges. According to his notebook, Atkinson turned to HQ at 12.45. Therefore he must have collected the gun between 11.30, when he was last at the scene of the crime, and then, and taken the photographs in the afternoon.

No explanation for this extraordinary contradiction was offered in court. Cross-examined by Cleeland, Ratcliffe said he had a receipt showing the cartridges and handstock, to have been delivered at the London laboratory that day and "Sergeant Atkinson must be mistaken."

"How could McCafferty have carried out tests on November 7, 1972, at the Metropolitan Lab, if, in fact, we have the photographs that show the items McCafferty says he had?" Cleeland asks. As the police said, it could be a mistake. But the evidence of PC Kittle gives rise to further concern. On the 7th, the day Ratcliffe said he went to London, PC Kittle says he went with the Inspector to the crime scene. He and Ratcliffe concluded: "If both D/I Ratcliffe and Mr. McCafferty are giving the correct evidence then D/S Atkinson and P/C Kittle are clearly giving inaccurate evidence."

Ratcliffe, now Superintendent and Commander of Stevenage police, says that he stands by what he said at the trial. "All the defects spoken about by Cleeland were thoroughly investigated in two trials, and by Mr. Boothby in an independent investigation," he says; and as far as Sergeant Atkinson's

evidence was concerned, he still believes he was mistaken.

There is one final mystery surrounding the cartridges. The police did buy a control box of 25 Blue Rival cartridges in Stevenage but that was not until Saturday the 11th. If the ones found at the scene were indeed at the laboratory from November 7 to 15, it is unexplained why one witness, Raymond Newton, should have testified in a statement signed November 8 to having been shown a box of 25 Blue Rival cartridges. And why did Ian Graham, another, say he saw such a box on the 10th? Furthermore, an album of photographs showing the loose cartridges was already in the exhibits book by the 9th.

THE GUN EVIDENCE

'Guilty or not guilty the police were wrong over the distance involved'

Little was made of the disturbing discrepancies in ballistic evidence at Cleeland's first trial. With the second one pending, he says: "At this stage my only thought was to get out and I decided the best way for that to be done was to prove to the court that the shotgun produced by the prosecution was not that used to kill Clarke. So I got the evidence as to that shotgun was useless to convict me of murder."

Cleeland maintains — and his expert, a registered gunmaker, supported him — that the gun in court, fired twice at the distance alleged by Pat Clarke, would have caused more damage to the victim than it did. Pat Clarke said she saw the flash of the gun at about 6 feet from her husband and a neighbour who looked out of his window said he too, saw the flash of a second shot about 6 feet from the car.

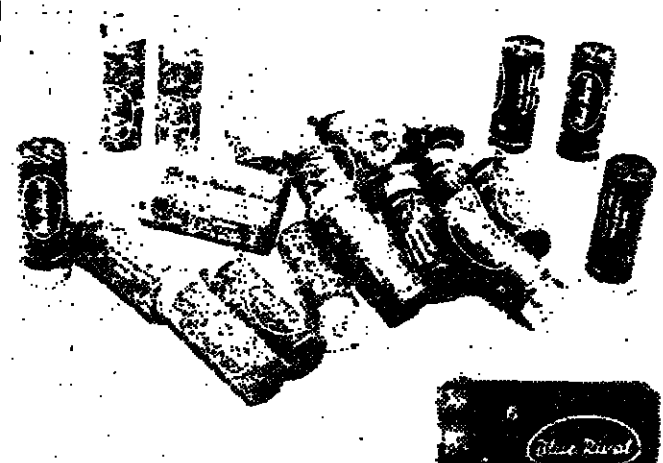
The Crown's chief witness on the ballistic evidence was Mr. McCafferty, principal scientific officer at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Laboratory, Holborn. McCafferty gave evidence until his retirement at several famous trials including that of James Hanratty, hanged in 1962. At the time of Cleeland's trial McCafferty had 24 years' experience of handling firearms. He was a police liaison officer with the laboratory until his retirement from the force in 1964 when he took over as head of the Metropolitan Police Laboratory's firearms section.

McCafferty told the court that the gun he had examined and tested, the 12-bore "Gye" Moncrieff, produced similar shot patterns to those on the victim's body with the target at 18 feet from the muzzle. No one, he said, had asked him to fire from 18 feet but "I looked and examined the shots spread on the [victim's] garments and from my experience of weapons I selected a range which I thought was probable, fired a cartridge and then adjusted my range by firing additional cartridges until the spread was of the same distance as on the garments."

The two fired cartridges



Since then he has worked from inside prison to prove his innocence. The conflicting evidence shows that, at the very least, the case should be put before another jury.



According to the notebook and evidence of a police photographer, this photograph of cartridges was taken at Hertfordshire Police HQ at Welwyn Garden City on November 7, 1972. But McCafferty and another prison officer testified that on that day these items were being tested in London.

It would have remained another expert's word against another, but for one further opinion, not referred to in the judge's summing up: the evidence of Dr. M. Rufus Crompton, consultant pathologist at St George's Hospital, London. From studying the autopsy report, photographs and X-rays and examining the body, he concluded that the pellets had not penetrated much deeper than the subcutaneous tissue and were spread over some 12 inches, both front and back, the range was about 36 feet. "Despite this, Cleeland was found guilty. There was other evidence against him: a man and his wife testified they had sold him the gun produced in court; another man said he had bought Cleeland the cartridges and a third said Cleeland had asked him to look after some cartridges. Both the latter were known to Cleeland and both had criminal records. He denies he ever owned or possessed the gun in court or either of the other two guns found in the weir.

Cleeland was sentenced on June 25, 1973, with a recommendation of a minimum 20 years. He lodged notice of appeal, and pending that, further tests on the "Gye" Moncrieff were carried out by J. G. F. Rothery, a registered gunmaker from Portsmouth. These crucial tests, inadmissible at the

Early on November 5, 1972, Paul Cleeland (left), a petty crook from Stevenage, was taken by police and accused of murdering Terry Clarke, another small time criminal. In June 1973, despite his fierce denials, Cleeland was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 20 years.

appeal, tip the scales firmly in favour of the defence ballistic evidence.

Rothery concluded after tests on October 8 1974 in the presence of McCafferty and the police that the gun "must have been fired from a minimum distance of 38ft and a maximum distance of 44ft". Had this firearm been fired at 18ft from the victim as described in Mr. McCafferty's evidence I feel that far more damage would have occurred to the car and to the back of the deceased. The conclusion must therefore be drawn that if this gun was used, it was fired at a distance in excess of 38ft, or alternatively, if the range was 18ft, then this gun and cartridge were not used."

One further question mark remains over evidence on lead traces on Cleeland's clothes. McCafferty undertook chemical tests using swabs and found lead traces on the front of his suit and donkey jacket which might, he said, have come from a gun. Another expert, Mr. F. A. Lyne, then president of the Association of Public Analysts, gave evidence saying he had found the same lead contamination but concluded it to be more likely to be "environmental" than due to a single incident.

A more complicated and lengthy test than that undertaken by McCafferty exists which can differentiate between environmental contamination and lead from firearms. This test involves the use of an electron microscope and ancillary apparatus and depends on time and staff available. But despite the doubts, it was not used.

THE NEW WITNESS

'I knew I had never had an interview with Nash, yet these people were telling me I had'

So the police had secured a conviction, albeit an untidy one. But the matter did not rest there; another witness came to light. Cleeland was sent to Wandsworth where he came across another prisoner called Nash who said he recognized Cleeland and had been in the cell opposite him at Stevenage the night he was brought in.

For Cleeland, the revelation seemed vital. Nash, he believed, could support his denial of a major piece of police evidence: that he and another prisoner had had a conversation in the cells on the night of Cleeland's arrest which amounted to a confession of guilt. The police said they had been in near by cells and made notes.

He made strenuous efforts to see Nash who was eventually seen on his behalf by a member of the prison staff. Cleeland says he was told "Nash was a bit of a romantic and had not been in Stevenage police station."

"When I heard this I was rather mad for the last thing I wanted at that time was a name so I decided I would see what could be done about Nash."

Through the prison grapevine Cleeland got in touch with Nash, established that he had after all been at the police station and urged him to contact Cleeland's solicitors. On receiving Nash's statement from his lawyers, Cleeland by this time at Albany — decided to inform the Court of Appeal that had been able to see Nash at Wandsworth much time would have been saved, and second, that a member of the prison staff had told him, wrongly, that Nash could not help him.

It was at this point, early in 1974, that the errors in the prison records first came to light. Cleeland asked the prison governor if he could know the date he had requested to see Nash at Wandsworth. He was informed that according to the records, he had seen Nash on December 4, 1973 in connection with his appeal.

Cleeland petitioned the Home Office in protest. Six weeks later he was told they had found the entry to be correct and would stand. He was told that was the end of the matter. "Upon hearing this," Cleeland recounts, "I am afraid I lost my temper, for I knew I had never had an interview with Nash, yet these people were telling me I had."

He reasoned that either there had been a mistake, or it was one deliberately made to show the court that the appeal that he and Nash had colluded, therefore discrediting the latter. "Can you think of any other way of destroying an honest witness? Both myself and Nash would have been discredited once and for all for who would you believe, myself and Nash or the prison records?"

After much thought, Cleeland says, he struck upon the answer to the problem: his Category "A" book, a detailed log of his movements which follows him from prison to prison. This did record a visit on the 4th, but with a man called Alan Russell; not Nash. Yet the prison records show a note of any visit from Alan Russell, nor of a visiting order being sent or received.

The Governor told him he "could quite understand one record not being made [as] regards Alan Russell but three people in three different places would make the same mistake and not record the visit". A prison officer then had the idea of checking the main gate book at Wandsworth. This, it turned out, recorded the visit from Russell.

A full report went to the Home Office, who said the entries at Wandsworth recording a visit from Nash had been made in error and had been corrected. Not satisfied, Cleeland asked for a police investigation and a further press conference. Mr. Shirley Williams, then MP for Stevenage, the Hertfordshire Constabulary agreed to conduct an inquiry.

The inquiry was delayed, however, pending Cleeland's appeal, and the prison records for the hearing but was refused. The court, content that there had been a clerical error which was now corrected, refused to order their correction. By now he had begun to doubt if the errors were truly accidental. If not, he asks, could the Home Office really be expected to admit to the Appeal Court that they had been altered deliberately?

The appeal went ahead. Cleeland choosing to conduct his own defence, on February 26, 1976. On the first day the Crown presented him with a bundle of affidavits, sworn then for the first time, dealing with Nash, his friend and witness. The burden of these was that on the morning of November 5 — the day of the murder — Nash was transferred from the female cell block at Stevenage so that the male cells were free for suspects in the murder case, and thus was not around at the time of Cleeland's allegedly self-incriminating conversation.

In evidence Nash stood by his first statement that he had been at his cell door all night opposite Cleeland, and not seen or heard anything. But the police produced a second later statement, in which Nash said he was not at the door all night; had slept some of the time and now doubted which cell area he was in. Nash claimed he had made this second statement at insistence from the police that he had been mistaken, and had signed it in the end "to get out of the police station."

Lord Justice Lawton dismissed Nash as not credible and since he was the main plank of the defence, the case was rejected. "As you can well expect," Cleeland comments, "I felt right sick."

Events now took a further turn. Cleeland, by then in Gartree, again took up the question of the prison records and the wing assistant governor carried out a full internal inquiry. He concluded the discrepancies in the record, letter and visit sheets could not have arisen through error and asked the Home Office to reconsider.

The Home Office refused. Not satisfied with this, the Governor asked the assistant governor to submit a fresh report which was duly sent to the Home Office nearly a year later. Again it was rejected. Cleeland wrote to Shirley Williams, who was told by the Home Office,

surprisingly, that the reports only confirmed that there had been errors in the entries. About this time, just before Christmas 1976, Cleeland's mother brought him an envelope that he says had been pushed through her front door. It was a photocopy of a sworn affidavit by a Det. Sergeant O'Connor dated February 26 that year, the day of the appeal, and Cleeland says it was the first time he had seen it. At first he could not see its significance.

The affidavit turned out to contradict evidence given by the other police officers at the appeal as to the time Nash was moved to the female cells. O'Connor says this was at 11.30 pm on the day of the appeal, and the others the morning of the 5th. "We now have the police saying Nash was moved at two different times so who is right and who is wrong or is it as Nash told me, he was never moved?" Cleeland asks.

The outcome of Cleeland's letters to the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire over this was that the Assistant Chief Constable, Mr. E. J. Boothby, was appointed to investigate both the errors and the question of the affidavit. What happened next, Cleeland recalls, is "the part that makes the whole story a little bit unbelievable". In view of the Boothby inquiry, he asked if he could check all his letter and visit sheets since first being remanded. What came to light was that the master sheet, on to which details of all previous letters and visit sheets were copied when he moved to Albany in 1973, contained names and addresses that did not appear on the Brixton and Wandsworth sheets with which he was provided. The missing details must have been on the original sheets when he first arrived at Albany, Cleeland says, otherwise how would the names have been known? "Both myself and the PO [prison officer] came to the same conclusion, and that was my letter and visit sheets had been altered after my arrival at Albany prison". This too was referred to Mr. Boothby. His report was completed three years ago. It was sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions who concluded that there was insufficient evidence for a prosecution, and to this day the Home Office has refused its publication.

CLEELAND'S VERSION

'The heavy mob began to worry. They felt Clarke had become a danger to them and they saw him off'

Why should the police bother to investigate a murder he says he did not commit, if indeed they did so? He maintains they only arrested him to talk and had to charge him to keep him. Both Cleeland and Clarke, the victim, had criminal records. They had known each other since 1961: stood trial together and served terms of imprisonment. A couple of years before the murder there had been a bad fight between them. The motive for the murder — but according to Cleeland it had long since been patched up.

Cleeland's version of events is this: Clarke once more turned to crime. Seeing him mixing with a gang who were always getting caught, Cleeland, on his own admission, put Clarke in touch with another group with whom he carried out some robberies.

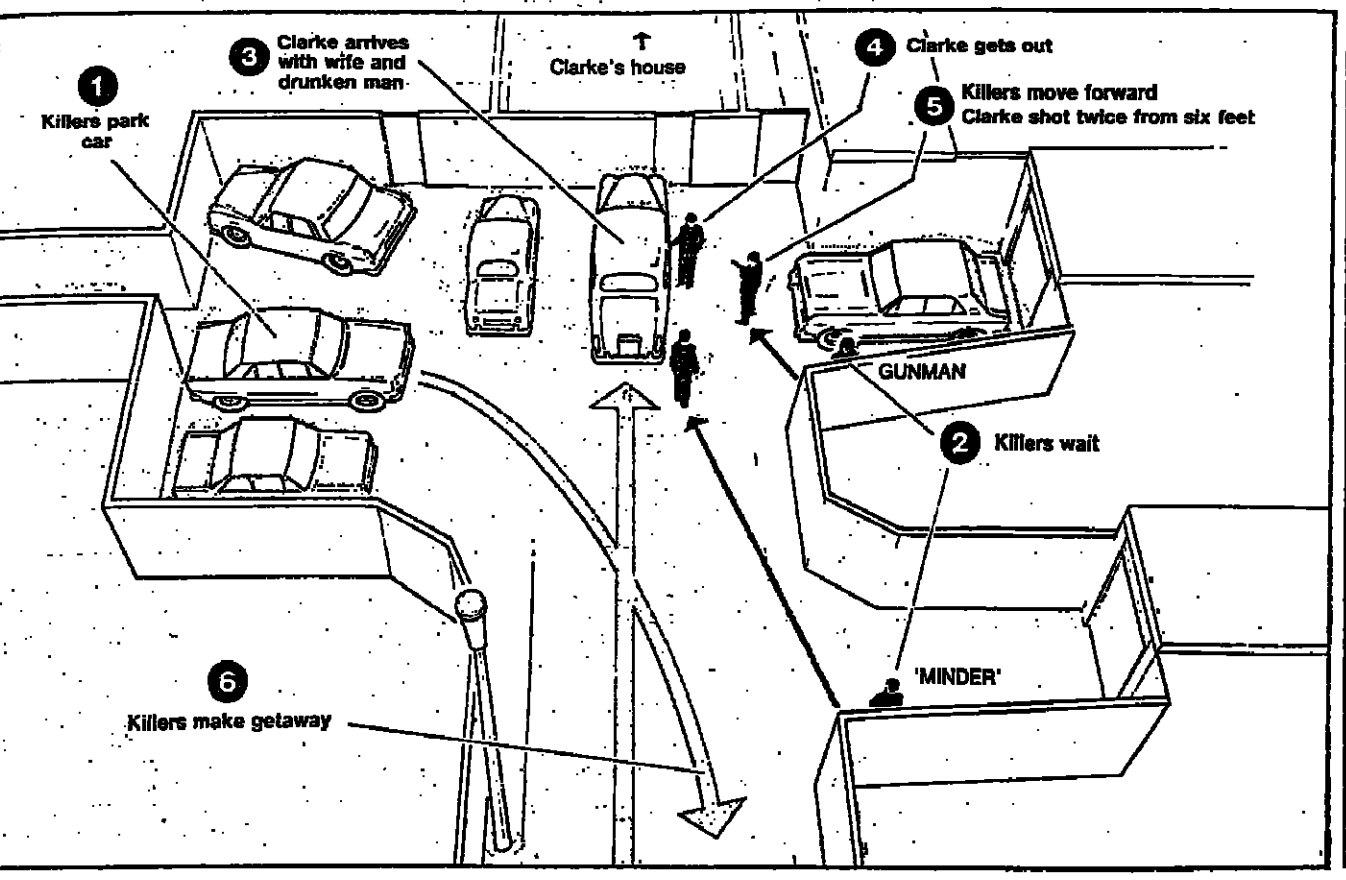
Things "started to go wrong" when Clarke got mixed up with another man in a "safe job" at a hotel, Cleeland says. A credit card and cheque were stolen and goods purchased. The police caught them both, and Cleeland says did a deal involving their pleading guilty to receiving stolen goods at the magistrates' court in order to avoid the safe-breaking charge going to the crown court.

Clarke's associate however would not plead guilty as he was already on parole. Clarke became desperate. He started to negotiate with the police to have the more serious charge dropped, knowing he would face a heavy prison sentence. The "heavy mob", as Cleeland describes those he introduced Clarke to, heard about this and began to worry.

"They felt they could not trust Clarke who had become a danger to them and although I told them he was all right they saw him off." This explanation, plus the Rothery ballistic evidence and the sequence of errors in the prison records have never been before a court. The police play to discover the murderer, if it existed, may have backfired. Having charged Cleeland, they naturally would have pressed their case against him. But the result is a man serving 20 years on the basis of an unsatisfactory conviction and patent inconsistencies in ballistic and other evidence, which in the interests of justice, at least demands a retrial.

How Clarke was murdered: The villains' version

Cleeland's underworld contacts told him that Clarke had been ambushed by two men, both armed with sawn-off shotguns. The murder was witnessed by Clarke's wife and a neighbour from an upstairs window. The killers arrived and escaped in Clarke's Rover car, which he had reported stolen, and dumped their weapons in a weir at Harlow.



Television

Frames of reference

The only case for Peter Prince's *Plow Tomorrow*, Bright (BBC 1) as a television backwash, is that it is about what matters. He finds the picture of Europe in 1999, a totalitarian state committed by its leaders to global warfare, is only conjured up as a commentary on the earlier war movement and the relative innocence of the confrontation. But a 55-minute play needs more than a title.

An anxious Robin Ellis in the white-tiled foyer of an ominously clinical institution. Is his wife in labour? Or have they merely redecorated Television Centre? Such was the failure of Mr Prince and his director, Peter Tuffell, to create tension that by the time we learn, several minutes later, how his daughter was in custody for her part in the assassination of a pro-war politician many viewers must have switched over to professional snooker.

Sarah Berger, combining feminine delicacy with martyr's steel, and Mr Ellis seized their belated chance for paths in an interview where, like Arthur Miller's *Proctor* and Shaw's *St Joan*, she was persuaded to sign away her integrity only to find that the state gives nothing in exchange. Too late: desultory reminiscence of *Daddy* meeting *Mummy* at an anti-LBJ demo had taken its toll, leaving her in an interminable party scene showing her fellow-juvs affecting Sixties gear and catchphrases in a highly improbable display of camp.

Throwaway references to habitual street violence, compulsory conscription and dictatorship by Euro-edits larded the script awkwardly as historical touches in third-rate costume drama. At least the designer, Nigel Curzon, had fun with the frigidly elegant futuristic sets, including an interview room that managed to be terrifying by sheer geometry. But, if this series of tomorrow is right, the graffiti may well be prophetic that says it has been cancelled for lack of interest.

Anthony Masters

Interview: Philip Prowse

Encouraging directions

"Whether this works or whether it doesn't, I hope I'll have the courage to go back to Glasgow and leave the London theatre to die the death it so richly deserves — a death caused by directors who have not the faintest sense of design, actors who believe that a play can exist on a page instead of a stage, and audiences still willing to pay for provincial, parochial, puritanical rubbish".

Thus Philip Prowse, joint artistic director with Les Haverall and Robert David MacDonald of the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre and now the director of MacDonald's play *Summit Conference*, which opens at the Lyric on April 28 after a week of previews. Originally seen, though with a rather less starry cast, two seasons ago in Glasgow, the play concerns a dramatic, often hilarious yet totally fictitious meeting in Berlin in 1941 between those two celebrated mistresses Eva Braun and Clara Petacci while their menfolk, Hitler and Mussolini, are otherwise engaged. The entire cast now consists of Glenda Jackson, Georgina Hale and (as a young German soldier) Gary Oldman, but even with two stars of that calibre Prowse is unsure whether his first London production has a chance of success.

"It's not your usual West End fare, thank God, and in fact it was never intended to be seen down here: David wrote it for our Glasgow company, and we did it there and I never expected to see it again, until a producer called Colin Brown rang up and told me that Glenda had read it and was keen to do it and would I direct? Actually he didn't have a lot of choice, since there was a clause in David's contract saying that the play couldn't be done without me".

That Glasgow triumvirate tends to stick together. Two of them, Prowse and Haverall, in fact started to work together as designer and director in the late 1960s when Haverall was in charge of a very different local theatre in Watford. "He asked me to do the sets for some of his productions there and for the first time in my life I found some sort of company spirit, some idea of what a theatre was supposed to be about. But it was a civic theatre and there was a sudden clampdown on funds in the classic Tory tradition of artistic repression. We'd been getting a lot of very good star names in audacious shows — Vivian Merchant came to do *Sweet Bird of Youth* and then Pinter played *Lenny* for us in a production

of his *The Homecoming* — but that all got rather upmarket expensive, so we began discussing a new policy with only very young actors which we were just starting to put into action when the money and the local enthusiasm ran out; so we moved north to Glasgow.

"There too we started with a policy of famous old ladies in mink-lined vehicles, but Glasgow rapidly decided that Constance Cummings in Tennessee Williams's *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Any More* was Southern degenerate rubbish, so we moved on in 1970 to the policy we've stuck to ever since of a very young company in a wide range of new and classic work.

"Giles has this extraordinary improvisatory ability to take a mix of apparently ill-suited people and turn them into a team; he also is one of those very rare directors who relish being a house manager, so that he still stands in that bloody Glasgow foyer every night, all six foot four of him, and age hasn't made his appearance any more conventional, saying 'Good evening' to bewildered Glaswegians.

"Of course there was a certain culture shock in going straight from Watford to Glasgow but it really is the most remarkably cosmopolitan city: no colour problems, no religious bigotry, and they seemed to accept us even sooner than we accepted them. Our only problem was a middle-class supposedly cultured elite who kept making bizarre demands to see 'Scottish classics' on stage, whatever they might be. Luckily there's now Euan Hooper's Scottish Theatre Company to keep them quiet, and we can get on with the plays we believe in. I'd make only two claims for our first ten years at the Citizens: we kept an apparently dying theatre in existence, and we found a way (thanks to an extremely tolerant and enlightened board of management) of giving ourselves total artistic freedom."

Three years into their Glasgow management Haverall and Prowse were joined by the playwright

MacDonald, and at around that time Prowse decided that, as he was in a position of some power, he would also encourage himself to direct. "I'd always been a designer, and the other two choked a lot when I told them the news, but they seem to have taken it very well. My problem now is that in order to get taken seriously elsewhere as a director I have to turn down a lot of very lucrative opera and play design jobs. As a designer I stick to ballet, which is where I started."

Born 43 years ago in the Midlands, a sailor's son, Prowse grew up on the huge Litter Christmas pantomime extravaganzas in Birmingham, and by the age of 18 he was studying at the Slade. "They had this appalling concept of 'painters for the theatre' instead of real designers, but it was a good place to have been and I was lucky enough to get to Covent Garden in 1961, so I spent the next few years in reasonably constant work as a freelance ballet designer, working on a number of operas and ballets for directors who if they came from Europe did at least have some remote idea of what design was all about. Over here the usual lack of money backstage has been turned into a terrible sort of virtue, so that true design in the European theatre sense is still virtually unknown.

"For a long time after I went to Glasgow I still kept pretending that I really wanted to be a designer first and a director second; actors in rehearsal made me very nervous, because I'd only ever met them in pubs or fitting-rooms and it took me a long time to get my ideas across. When he did, the result was a series of remarkable Glasgow productions including the professional world premiere of Coward's *Semi-Monde* (a kind of *Grand Hotel* on stage) and a *Duchess of Malfi* which went to the Theatre of Nations festival at a time when its other visiting directors were Barakat and Bergman.

"Around then I began to think that I really could be a full-time director, though until now I've only ever worked with our Glasgow

companies and I find in London when you're pushing eminent ladies about the stage you have to mind your manners rather more. Writers seem to have got a lot softer here in London, too, since I went away; we are living on a myth of Great English Theatre. You go to Stratford and sit amid five hundred Japanese tourists watching a totally terrible *Taming of the Shrew* and you suddenly realize that they've no way of telling how terrible it is. It's like us going to Tokyo and gawping at Kabuki. How do we know it's not rubbish too?

"Directing is all about realizing that a script is only the beginning, it's only what the actors actually say to each other while they are on a stage. If a play exists perfectly on the page, then there's no point in doing it on the stage; a good script is only a notation of what people say. What happens then is up to a director; maybe that's why I seem to do so many modern plays. It doesn't help having the author standing around at rehearsal. In ballet the power of the director is total and accepted; in drama he's still supposed to be part of the team, and that's how you get all the rubbish."

"The wonderful thing about Glasgow is that most of our audiences have never been to a theatre before they come to us, so they aren't sitting there complaining that it wasn't done like that at the Vic; and the actors too are new to it, so I listen to their ideas. Sometimes otherwise we might just as well save the money and have Gordon Craig's marionettes. But the curious thing about the actors we started at Glasgow over the last decade — Cheryl Campbell, John Duttine, Paola Dionisotti, Rupert Frazer — is that when I see them in London or on television I can hardly recognize them at all. Something seems to happen to people when they leave the Citizens." Which is, just possibly, why Mr Prowse plans to stay there.

Sheridan Morley

Cinema

African adventures of fear and sympathy

The internationalism of film never ceases to surprise. Tomorrow London sees a production originating from the Swedish Film Institute, still living in the big house with my husband — oh dear, he used to take all my calls, anyway I said send the script. When I got around to reading it, I realized how good it was. Michael Raeburn called and we talked it over and over. He sent me tapes of the most difficult on the face of the planet. I spent two hours every day for months. It's English with a touch of American in it, but there's Dutch, and Afrikaans. The English underlay was the most difficult with those odd vowels. I call them them in everyday speech now. It's so hard to get rid of it.

"I was in Africa for two months working on the film, and very happy. I was in love with the director — we were about to be married. But it wasn't treated very well. There was no first assistant director. There's a key scene where a maize field burns. A thing like that can easily get out of control, and there we were, the actors, in a burning field with no A.D. to tell us what to do.

"They'd change the schedule, telling Michael at the last moment. He was wonderful with the African actors, in fact he could make an actor of any of them. But he'd send someone out into the bush for the next day's shooting and then they'd tell him the schedule had changed, and they couldn't telephone the man waiting for them because there was no phone.

"The Swedes found the conditions strange. They'd be sent to a hotel and then find that they couldn't take a shower, only a bath. So they would complain, and as for what they said about the lizards and the flies, and the heat and the distances! John Thaw was very funny — he's one of those people who can tell the same story over and over again and still make it sound funny. He was worried about being typecast by *The Sweeney*. I think he worries too much about it. You just have to play the part and find the truth in it."

This year she reaches her thirty-ninth birthday. She lives in Greenwich Village with her six-year-old son Hunter. "It took months to find that name — his father wanted to call him Liberty, and other names of that sort." She was raised in Illinois, in a suburb of Chicago. "I came to New York when I was 18 just like a nitwit, but I was too much of a nitwit to know I was one. I never thought of being in movies. I did all the reams, and I worked at switchboards, waitressing, all that stuff. During my first trip to Los Angeles, I did the Coppola movie. I became ill on the plane, and I thought my ears were going to burst. And then I was put in a car and driven out into the bright light. When I first saw the Sunset Strip I wanted to vomit.

"The next thing I shall do is a film called *Deep Purple*. It's set in 1939, in a sort of Walker Evans America of empty spaces, generic farms and gleaming mud and truck tyres and Pepsi signs corroded by the weather. It will be directed by Paul Williams who made *The Revolutionary* with Jon Voight. It's about a woman who is looking for and thinks she has found the child who has given up for adoption, but it's not really her daughter. Anyway, I like it."

It was a disappointment for Karen Black, who began her career on the stage, and was hit on Broadway in a thriller, *Playroom*, before going to Hollywood. Like most people who have worked with Altman, she has enormous respect for his skills in handling actors and was easily persuaded into going back on the stage to play a transsexual in a silly play.

Not that she has not done even sillier films. One recalls, for example, *Airport 75*, in which she was a stewardess who plotted a stricken 747 to a safe landing, achieving it, as aviation experts noted, without using the rudder. But then she also made *Five Easy Pieces*, with Jack Nicholson.

George Perry

Theatre

Dramatic overkill

Not Quite Jerusalem

Royal Court

As Paul Kember's play vanished from the Royal Court stage before the production could reap the benefits of its *Evening Standard* award, here is another chance to catch up with the work of "the most promising playwright of 1980".

As labels go, that seems pretty fair. *Not Quite Jerusalem* records the experiences of a miscellaneous group of young English volunteers on a kibbutz, all wet behind the ears on arrival and variously sadder and wiser at the end. Mr Kember writes as if he knows his subject at first hand and has the resolution to build his plot out of everyday incidents; and selects his material so as to present a controlled experiment in living together for a national team who are famously not very good at it.

On the negative side, the everyday-life approach denies the piece any strong forward drive, and the metaphorical element is delivered in a solemn, didactic finale instead of arising from the story itself.

The two acts might be subtitled "work" and "play", and the first is much the better of the two. In it we see the unhappy volunteers arriving in the midst of a desert rainstorm and miserably getting acquainted under the unsympathetic gaze of an Israeli liaison officer and a strapping kibbutz girl, Gila, with a strong (and, as it

proves, well founded) prejudice against the English.

There are a couple of working-class boys, one fresh from sight-seeing in Tel Aviv ("that took a good half-hour"), a self-styled Birmingham nurse with cultural pretensions, and Mike, a Cambridge drop-out — the obvious group-leader who characteristically turns the job down.

With introductions out of the way, the action moves on to the kibbutz, where Mr Kember keeps up an ingenious flow of comic traffic, showing Mike breaking through Gila's belligerent defences with a well-placed gag, and the nurse fainting dead away at the sight of blood. Meanwhile, the kibbutz ethic is gradually unfolding, and sharpening up the contrast between Israeli direct enthusiasm and British evasive apathy.

That comes to a head in the second act, where the chore of appearing in the camp show turns the working-class boys into a Crazy Gang medley ending with Croquet trousers at which the Israelis decide to throw them out.

It is quite logical, but Mr Kember's invention flags as his message begins to loom. Perhaps the boys were saying something about the democratic farce of England. But the action sits down when it no longer has work routines to hang on to. Mike, as soon as he gets the girl, turns from an amusing ironist into an indecisive weed beyond even David Threlfall's sympathetic powers. And such dramatic overkill is practised



"Not Quite Jerusalem": David Threlfall, Leslee Udwin

on the other Brits that you are much more aware of them as two yobs and a spinster hysteric than as victims of impoverishing backgrounds.

There remains some excellent comic acting in Les Waters's production, particularly from Kevin McNally, as Harlow's own laughing boy and Leslee Udwin as the seductively pugnacious tractor girl.

Irving Wardle

Love in Vain

Tricycle

Bob Mason may be too new to playwrighting to recognize the chances he missed. In retelling the story of Robert Johnson he pushes straight through the chronology from the time the boy ran away from a Mississippi plantation

at the age of 16 to the moment of his death by poison a decade later in 1938. He invents the life from Johnson's blues songs; supposing that Betty Mae was the childhood sweetheart whom he left behind to a savage husband and casual whoring, and that she kills him in a recording session at the urging of his entire home town.

Though the death is the inevitable end, and will be known to admirers of Johnson's music and anyone who bothers to read the programme notes, it is not actually a climactic event. There is one fine gimmick in the ending, which inaccurately has Johnson recording his last songs after being told by Betty Mae that she has poisoned him. Julius Liman, who is a physically pale but musically strong copy of Johnson, is at his best in that last scene, refusing to die, or do anything about the poison, until he has made sure

of immortality. If the entire story were told in that hotel room turned into a recording studio, in the space between one song and the last, it might concentrate Mr Mason's drama.

When no songs are being sung, the play is diffuse. The comedy is usually made through negro dialect rather than character, creating the certainly unintentional effect of a minstrel show, made up for by routine defiance of racism. But every once in a while scenes spring to life, when Paul Barber claims Betty Mae (the splendid Pauline Black) by putting a knife to her throat, or when Mr Liman and Mel Taylor join together in a song about sheer joy. The actors in Ken Chubb's production and the songs of Robert Johnson are the real life blood, and Johnson's spirit only stirs in the music.

Ned Chaillet

Opera

A nasty lot, nicely portrayed

Agrippina

Sadler's Wells

Winton Dean has categorized *Agrippina* as one of Handel's "antiheroic operas". Of the eight characters only one, Otho, is at all admirable: the others, Grimoire's text and Handel's music either make mockery or paint in unflattering colours — reasonably, since they include the Roman emperor, Claudius, his wife Agrippina, her son Nero and his subsequent wife Poppaea.

Kent Opera's production, to be seen in London this week (the remaining performance is tomorrow), is a joint effort by Christopher Bruce and Norman Platt, who do not scruple to expose the absurdity of Claudius's pos-

turing self-glorification and the simpering, sulky malignity and sexual thirst of Nero — and indeed to mock the nature of *da capo* aria form itself, which Handel in his Italian apprentice years was not yet ready to shorten and vary, as he did for London taste.

Stanley Sadie reviewed the production when it was first shown. It only remains for me to praise again the lovely, stylish settings by Roger Butler, to connive at David Thomas's clownish caricature of Claudius — if chiefly because the clowns as expertly as he sing the part — and to express admiration for Felicity Palmer's powerful, eloquent portrayal of the title role, a horrible creature, absolutely serious and marvellous to listen to.

Cynthia Buchan's nasty

stripling Nero is almost a collector's piece. She had trouble on *Mia* in the last act, "Coll' ardor del tuo core", chiefly because she was set so precipitous a pace by the young conductor Ivan Fischer, who raises eyebrows with his special orchestral effects, but certainly knows how to make a "baroque" orchestra sound well.

Paul Esswood has the ungrateful task of playing the only good guy in a wicked world, as boring as Sir Galahad in Arthurian legend: Esswood looks suitably robust, and sings his music with real nobility. Otho is the lucky man who finally gets Meryl Drower's luscious sweetmeat Poppaea. She is another good reason for seeing and hearing Handel's *Agrippina*.

William Mann

Concert

Plausible economy

Parley of Instruments

St George's, Hanover Square

Instead of a choir, the Parley of Instruments used the voices of Elizabeth Lane (deputizing for the sick Emma Kirkby), Ian Partridge and Stephen Roberts for three of Handel's Chandos Anthems which they performed at their London Handel Festival concert on Monday. The excuse for such economy was plausible enough. That was how the Duke of Chandos would probably have heard them in the second decade of the 1700s.

By then Handel's Italian flame had been half quenched by his deference to English refinement. And once we had accepted the usual vagaries of baroque oboe playing, the musicians on Monday responded stylishly to Handel's subtle invention.

Perhaps in *O Sing unto the Lord* Miss Lane and Mr Partridge could have added weight to their suspensions in the duet "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" and the fury of "The waves of the sea rage horribly" was tempered by poor instrumental coordination. But *As Parts the Heart* was performed with lavish yearning, evoking appositely the dryness of a still, sun-baked Mediterranean afternoon. *Will Magnify Thee* elicited some of the best violin playing of the evening, complementing rapturously Miss Lane's spontaneous expressiveness in the aria "The Lord is righteous".

As if he had at the distant sources of this music, the Parley included three sacred pieces by Monteverdi. Two simple hymn settings were counterbalanced by the more daring, two-voice version of *Confitebor tibi, Domine*. Here Miss Lane and Mr Partridge engaged in a beautiful, erotic dialogue, crowned by the two violins ushering them out gently with the dying echoes of the final, spare "Amen".

Stephen Pettitt

Second Stride, a contemporary dance company presenting works by Siobhan Davies, Ian Spink and Richard Alston, makes its debut at the Oxford Playhouse on May 5. After a British tour, which will include a London season at Riverside Studios from June 8 to 13, the company leaves for a four-week visit to the United States.



Karen Black: study of neurosis

It was a disappointment for Karen Black, who began her career on the stage, and was hit on Broadway in a thriller, *Playroom*, before going to Hollywood. Like most people who have worked with Altman, she has enormous respect for his skills in handling actors and was easily persuaded into going back on the stage to play a transsexual in a silly play.

Not that she has not done even sillier films. One recalls, for example, *Airport 75*, in which she was a stewardess who plotted a stricken 747 to a safe landing, achieving it, as aviation experts noted, without using the rudder. But then she also made *Five Easy Pieces*, with Jack Nicholson.

George Perry

Jazz

Mose Allison

The Canteen

Mose Allison's rueful, laconic singing was much in vogue among hipsters 20 years ago; it seems appropriate that a new generation, or at least that part of it whose heroes include neo-bohemians like Tom Waits and Rickie Lee Jones, should now be awakened to the enduring charm of this minor original.

Allison's vocal delivery has hardly changed over the years: his slack-jawed, unmistakably rural-dialect still makes him sound like a boy from Mississippi dispensing handed-down wisdom over a jug of moonshine on a balmy front-porch evening.

Drawn from some surprising sources, but still containing a large proportion of the songs with which he became identified in the early years, the repertoire seems all of a piece, which is a certain mark of character in this field. Songs from the canons of Nat Cole, Charles Brown, Hank Williams and Percy

Mayfield are focused through a common fatalism.

The piano-playing, though, has changed a lot. Some of the sparkle has gone, and is replaced by a dazed resignation; he makes pronounced use of the loud pedal, intentionally blurring some of his bustling parallel lines and sometimes sounding weirdly disorientated. By contrast, the versions of "How Much Truth" were separated by striking passages of glowing filigree.

The bassist Len Skeat and the drummer Art Morgan, still familiarizing themselves, had difficulty keeping up with him in the faster tunes on Monday; they seemed unsure whether he required straight 4/4 or a Latin 3/8, and tried to cover the uncertainty with busy fills.

A strange, off-centre version of "You Are My Sunshine", however, barely touching the tune as written, was the very essence of an artist whose ability to retain his freshness will enliven Covent Garden's latest jazz bar for the next 10 days.

Richard Williams

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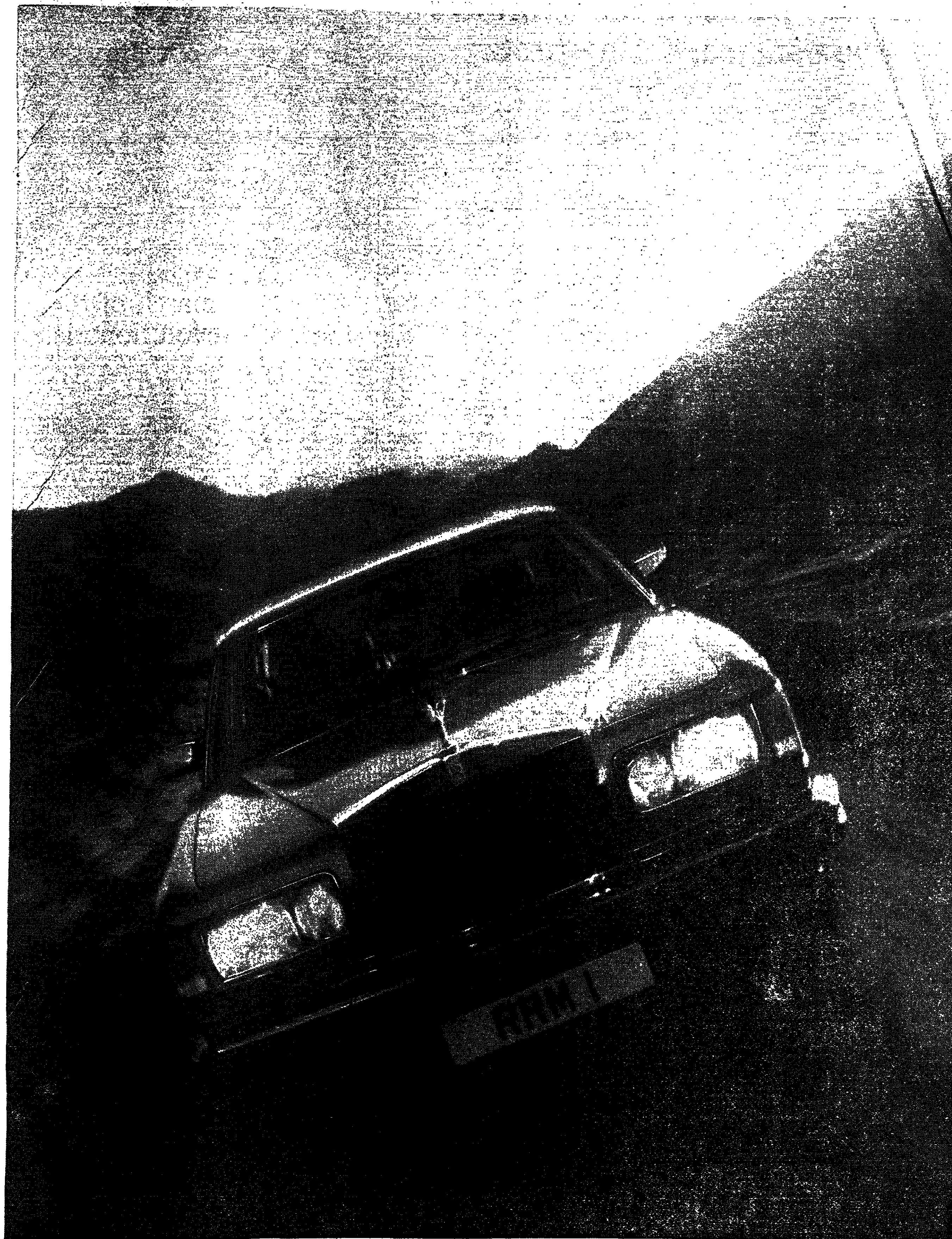
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"I was in Africa for a number of years, mostly working on the radio and very happy. I was about to get married to a beautiful girl, but it was a difficult film. He didn't want to be treated as a director. There was no first scene for me. There's a key scene where I'm in the field burning like that can easily be controlled, and there were two scenes, in a burning with no A.D. to tell me

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George P...

Richard Williams



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Pol's paradox: the reformers do not want martial law to stay

by Roger Boyes

Like the last winter, the military solution is the only one available to the Polish leadership.

Polish reformers can go to the Communist Party, but the party is not a reformer. The military solution is the only one available to the Polish leadership.

Four months ago, after the declaration of martial law, it was possible for Poland to go one of two routes: that of Mr Janos Kadar, the Hungarian leader, whose economic reforms have brought a degree of consumer satisfaction, or the way of Mr Gustav Husak, the Czechoslovak leader, who has concentrated on "normalization", weeding out those dissatisfied with the system.

But the fighting in the party has led to a blurring of the two options and, more by default than anything

else, a patchwork compromise is emerging that has left the party rank and file utterly bewildered. This is known as the Polish solution.

"All politics is carrot and stick," says a reformist member of the party's ideological commission. "We believe in a regular diet of carrots and occasionally some application of the stick. They (the hardliners) believe in stick, stick and giving out the occasional carrot when they're short of breath."

In fact, nobody in Poland much believes in carrots any more, ensuring that a Kadarist solution — encouraging people to work and produce more because there are desirable things to buy — cannot work.

May Day slogans, to be drawn up at the plenum, will urge Poles to work more for Poland. Most factories, however, are at a standstill not because of go-slows but because of the chronic shortage of raw materials, itself a result of mismanagement.

The price increases mean that goods are inaccessible and that there is no link between producing more and being better off. The result is a type of industrial agnosticism that will be cured only when people start believing in the competence of government to solve problems. That, in turn, can be achieved only through dialogue between leaders and led, a restoration of trust in the party.

That, at any rate, is the view of the reformists in the Communist Party, supported in stronger language by moderate elements in the underground. The hardliners, the dogmatic ideologists, believe by contrast that motivation is a matter of discipline. Dialogue with anti-socialist forces — Solidarity, say — leads only to concessions and slippery paths.

This then is the Polish paradox: it is the reformists, those who want to see a new, improved Communist

Party responsive to the people and the Church, who want martial law to stay in place. Those who privately deplore the internment of thousands of dissidents are actually the most zealous supporters of military control.

There are two reasons for this. In the first place, dialogue needs time for results to show, it needs a basic minimum of social order. The reformists argue for a two-tier front of national understanding, the would-be group the PUWP with its two more or less loyal satellite parties, the Peasants Party and the Democratic Party, and even the lay Catholic Pax party.

This would create the impression that communist rule is not being imposed on Poland but rather emerges out of a consensus. Feeding into the upper tier would be the "social forces" — trade unions, the youth movement and so on. They would not have, as Solidarity once laid claim to, equal say in running the economy but would be consulted. To buy negotiating time to achieve this "power-sharing" arrangement, argue the reformists, the Solidarity leadership has to be kept under lock and key for a while longer.

The second reason for continuing martial law is the uncertainty surrounding Soviet policy. "Brezhnev could die in two months, two days, two years," says a leading party journalist. "We would be fools to believe in law before the leadership question is resolved."

There is a certain logic to this line of thought. If martial law is lifted now and open fighting breaks out, the Soviet Union will obviously be worried. If, in addition, Mr Brezhnev dies and a hardline leadership slips into place even for an interregnum, the whole point of martial law — to put the Polish house in order before Soviet troops do so — would have been negated.

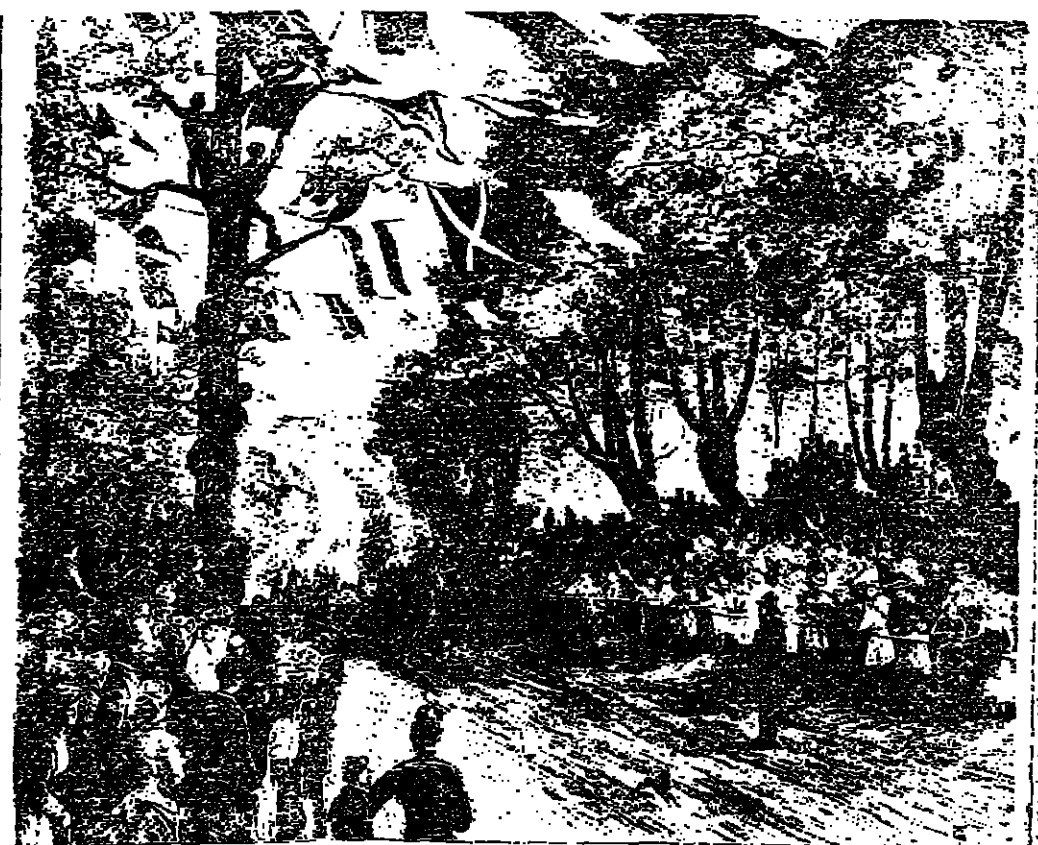
The Polish hard line Marxists give this line of thought little time. With

firm party control they say, the Soviet Union will allow Poland to seek its own destiny. The solution then is to base the party on a firm ideological basis, strengthen links with the Soviet Union and phase out martial law. Thus the army, far from being the dominant force in Polish politics, has become something of a political football, dribbled rather than kicked between the party factions.

General Jaruzelski's real power rests with his control of the economy — through his office as Prime Minister — rather than his control of the army (as Defence Minister and head of the Military Council). But he can and does effectively use his multiplicity of functions to bolster the case of the reform-minded in the Communist Party at a time when the hardliners seem to be scoring points.

The recent banning of the journalists' old union, the sacking of a liberal reformer as Rector of Warsaw University — these seem on the face of it to show that the hardened core of dogmatists in the party are gathering strength. But this may be viewing the situation from the wrong end of the telescope: had it not been for the party reformers and in at least one instance the personal intervention of General Jaruzelski, the hardliners would have got away with much more. Some had called for the sacking of 40 per cent of the nation's journalists. These demands have been watered down after skirmishes with the reformists.

But during all this infighting, the essential issue — Poland's destiny — is at best neglected, at worst exploited for personal advantage. General Jaruzelski is manifestly a patriot who employed the military for patriotic purposes: that much he must be credited for. But over the last four months, the source of his power — military support for the rebuilding of trust in Communist Party government — has become a source of paralysis.



Crowds line the way for Queen Victoria's visit to Epping Forest in 1882. Reproduced from *The Graphic* of that year.

The long march of the footpath revolutionaries

Today, Andrew Bennett will introduce a Bill dubbed the Walkers' Charter into the House of Commons. It is the first shot in what will have to be a long campaign to improve the rights of those who want to walk in the countryside. There have been many radical access Bills in the past — and all have failed. But this is an extraordinary year to see another attempt.

One hundred years ago, on May 6, 1882, Queen Victoria declared Epping Forest open to the public for "the use and enjoyment of my people for all time". This reassertion of a long eroded right was made only after a long and occasionally deliberately illegal struggle by locals, backed by the wealthy campaigners of what was soon to become The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society (COSFPS).

Fifty years ago this Saturday, April 24, 1932, several hundred ramblers, inspired and led by young socialists, organized a mass trespass on Kender Scout, in the Peak District. Until 1836 Kinder had been "King's Land", and was prized and unchallenged walking country until it fell to private ownership and grouse.

This Saturday will see Bernard Rothman, a leader of the trespass, at the head of a celebratory re-enactment. Not all those Sheffield and Manchester walkers became members of the formal movement for access, but the late and lamented Howard Hill did, and his *Freedom to Roam* remains a touching account of the aspirations which led the Ramblers' Association and others to fight for legislation for walkers' rights.

It came in the form of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which has proved fine in rhetoric but thin in action. The National Parks have been constantly eroded and access to the countryside is very patchy, even to wilderness areas where only sheep graze and grouse lurk.

The proposals by Andrew Bennett — he is Labour MP for Stockport North — are modest enough: among them that local authorities should be under more urgent pressure to keep open what paths there are, and be more vigorous in invoking the powers that already exist to create new ones; and that wilderness land should be open to walkers. The Charter notes the two quite separate needs of walkers: for rights of way on land where it would be impractical for them to roam freely, and for the right to roam on land where it is manifest they will do no harm.

To grant such rights, Parliament will have to show more firmness on the countryside, and it will not be able to rely on old legal traditions (hence the need for fresh legislation). The ancient rights of commons vary, but they are free of right of access to everyone who wanted it: there were no ramblers' clubs in medieval Britain. Woods and wildernesses were places of fear, not recreation.

The industrial revolution changed all that, and it radically altered the politics of the countryside. Wordsworth, an occasional trespasser, told an irate landowner who remonstrated with him: "I broke your wall down, Sir John. It was obstructing an ancient right of way, and I will do it again: I am a Tory, but scratch me on the back deep enough and you will find the Whig in me yet."

And it was Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley, a doughty fighter against bad white bread and slate quarry railways in the Lakes and a Ruskinite who became chaplain to King Edward VII — who led the Keswick and District Footpaths Association in several barrier-bashing forays on footpaths which had been blocked by farmers. Two thousand people walked a disputed road on Laping in 1886, under Canon Rawnsley's banner. They won access eventually (as did the mass trespassers in the case of Kinder), and a movement was born which became the National Trust.

Our own age adds to some of the old problems and adds several of its own. Andrew Bennett says that worst, perhaps, is the virtual banishment of walkers from the roads and lanes by their worst enemy, the car. And farmers turn thousands of acres of meadowland (on which one can walk) into barley prairie (on which one cannot). Survey after survey shows that footpaths are seldom way marked, which local authorities are statutorily obliged to ensure, and that farmers routinely plough or obstruct footpaths, which they have a statutory obligation not to do.

Legal moves are now afoot by Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and others to undo some of the protection recently accorded the commons, and some landowners are said to be exploring a loophole in footpath protection opened up by the notorious Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

There remain scores of square miles of the Peak District National Park where people can be, and often are, challenged by keepers; as they quite harmlessly seek

the freedom to roam places that are the straightforward norm in countries such as Norway and Switzerland. There is formal access to only around 400,000 of the 1.5 million acres of common land. And, to list a final example in which injury may be added to insult, farmers have won the extraordinary freedom to turn potentially dangerous bulls out into fields with public rights of way across them.

Against all this, 20 per cent of the population take what could be called serious walks in the country. "This is the make or break decade," says David Clark, chairman of COSFPS, who introduced his own unsuccessful access Bill in February. There is all the evidence in the world of people's desire to walk for recreation, and plenty of high-level Civil Service and Royal Commission evidence that walkers do precious little damage.

But the opposition is hugely powerful, the farming and landowning lobby will at the very least claim expensive compensation in exchange for access, in spite of the ethical dubiousness of the private Bills by which their forefathers first got rid of it.

The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society is relaunching itself next month. The loss of its quaint name will be a pity (its new one is as yet unknown), but will perhaps betoken the growing realization that it is the very quaintness and inappropriateness of the laws and myths surrounding public rights in the country which most bedevil them. The amenity groups are looking for a new law, and for proper political awareness of the issues.

Towards this end, the Council for the Protection of Rural England is testing the candidates in the forthcoming Oxfordshire district council elections (polling day, May 6) on their attitudes to the proposal that there should be renewed access into the 2,000 acres of Wyckwood Forest, which has been effectively closed over recent years in spite of a long tradition of footpath usage there.

The election day marks the exact centenary of Queen Victoria's declaration of people's freedom to use Epping Forest. It might yet make a marvellous celebration by nothing up some commitment to improve the access arrangements for Oxfordshire's walkers by which only 111 of the county's 27,000 acres of woodland are currently accessible.

Richard North

Can BR get the union elephant off the line?



Lord McCarthy: any advance on January?

As Lord McCarthy finalizes his report on flexible rostering, to be presented later this month, there is weary resignation at British Rail that he will again "fudge the issue". He is, in their view, an even more compulsive fudger of any issue put before him. They believe he will show this by commending more flexible working for drivers without requiring it of them. That will leave the dispute exactly where it was before the damaging January strikes; and the Board with an even more difficult and painful choice.

Should it swallow hard and go along with a McCarthy policy of gradualism, accepting that, after years of sweet conciliation, Sir Peter Parker inadvertently picked the wrong ground when he finally decided on confrontation.

Or should it, as the hard men of the board believe, put the boot in, by imposing on drivers a change they have failed to negotiate? That would almost certainly

precipitate further industrial action, condemning the country to more disruption and inconvenience, and British Rail to more damage it can ill afford. And for what, it may be asked? An immediate saving of perhaps £15m a year, or 1 per cent of BR's annual staff costs. Peanuts!

To take that road, it is argued, is to play into the hands of a government hostile to rail while, while unhappy about public disruption, is entirely happy with a public demonstration of the incompetence of a public sector industry and the selfish bigotry of a trade union.

But a tough line has strong attraction to the Board, starting perhaps with the virility factor. No one watching the adversarial television can fail to spot the high emotional charge that now runs through this dispute. Fear of losing face by giving in has become a major factor. If the Board caves in now, it is said that manage-

'British Rail has a vision... in which tasks will be done by computers and associated techniques'

ment morale which Sir Peter has so zealously nurtured, will collapse entirely, and future executive and industrial try needs will start to look elsewhere.

There is also the hardly less potent light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel factor. British Rail has a vision of the future which must be largely realized if it believes there is to be a future. It is of the cybernetic railway of the 1990s in which tasks now performed laboriously and inefficiently by people will be done by computers and associated techniques.

The market for gravel is expected to expand by up to 50 per cent because of lower retirement age, more students and more leisure generally. But rail's share will fall, and with it the case for continuing to support BR, unless the cost and price of rail travel is brought sharply down. It can be done, the visionaries say, and the service improved immeasurably in the process.

For example, it should be possible by 1995 to look up a train by pressing a button on a cable television set.

A further flick of the switch will book a seat on the chosen train, arrange for the ticket to be collected or delivered, and charge the cost to the traveller's credit-card account.

While serving the customer, the computer will simultaneously plan train movements, and automatically control them on the track. A computer can in theory make a better job of optimizing the three-fold resources of rolling stock, train crews and track capacity than can an army of clerks.

The railway, with its guided track and telecontrols, has long been seen as a

prime area for the substitution of man by machine, a process on which human resistance to change is the main brake. To BR's hawk, the Aslef drivers' dispute is seen in that light. Flexible rostering is important not so much in itself but as one of a succession of steps to a more automated railway. The light will be reached only by going through the tunnel.

To take one example, train drivers work from depots, each of which has a defined territory, based on prewar distance factors or even the old private railway companies, beyond which a train cannot proceed without a change of crew.

Birmingham has two mainline drivers' depots: one at Edgely serving the Bristol-Sheffield line, and another at New Street for the Euston-Preston line. They are not interchangeable, and even on their own line there are limits: a Bristol train will not go north of Derby, for example. Such practices are not compatible with a computerized railway.

It would be wrong to suggest that Aslef members are the sole culprits. Many freight trains that really need a crew of only one driver — have a superfluous second person, (Aslef) as well as a superfluous third (NUR) in the rear-facing cab of the same locomotive. The BR has so far refused to sacrifice these erstwhile guards on the altar of change.

The automated railway of the 1990s could have a labour force half or less than today's 170,000; and were it not for union resistance, BR believes it could manage the change to a new system quite well. More than half the train

drivers are over 50, and many have over 30 years' service. Attractive retirement terms are available to such men as they approach the age of 60, and many, it is thought, would willingly take them if the choice were theirs alone. But as indicated earlier, individual welfare is not the only factor: group virility and survival are much to the fore.

Meanwhile, those favouring a soft line argue that though the strategy of change is right, the tactics on this occasion have been wrong. Many have been shaken by the apparent determination of middle-aged moderates in Aslef, not young theodores or dedicated lefties, to win this fight, thus revealing an unsuspected swamp in the battlefield that looked good to the Board generals when they scanned it with their binoculars and chose it.

The argument that "we have to win this or we might as well throw in the towel" is rejected on the ground that there is no domino effect: Aslef and the others have a defence in depth of serried ranks of restrictive practices beyond inflexible rostering, and between BR and the end of the tunnel. They will have to be dealt with patiently, step by step, as McCarthy is likely to suggest.

Readers of the Rev Wilbert Awdry's children's books on trains will recall the tale of the tunnel blocked by an elephant. Can an elephant like Aslef be shunted out, or does it have to be coaxed?

That is a question that is likely to face not only the BR Board but the country very soon.

Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Why there is so little action at Acton

The London evening paper, *The Standard*, scored a coup last year when a reporter and photographer paid a nocturnal visit to London Transport's Acton works shops and found them full of sleepers — employees who were supposed to be working the night shift. It now appears that the revelation might more properly have been a cause for LTE pride than scandal.

In a paper delivered at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' headquarters on Monday night, Gordon Hafter of London Transport revealed that there is precious little work for Acton to do. Barring accidents, London's tube trains return there only three times in their lifespan, at nine-year intervals.

The minimal work is all that is needed because the carriages now have their entire structure, other than interior trim, made of aluminium alloy. No noticeable corrosion has taken place, even in London's atmosphere, on any stock built since 1949, except some built between 1959 and 1962 whose floor plates were made of mild steel. Those had to be replaced at the half-life overhaul.

Now a team of advisers from London Transport have won a contract worth almost £14m to help modernize the New York City Transit System, its overhaul shops and depots. Within a few years, I expect, the American workers will be able to take it easy too.

THE TIMES DIARY



I am glad to report that Kenneth Colley will complete his television role as our national sea hero in Central Television's *I Remember Nelson* without suffering anything so unsightly as the loss of an eye. The series of plays (the second is *How Nelson fought*) all set in the last few years of Nelson's life, but there is no glimpse of his eye

patch, or visible suggestion of his blindness. Hugh Whitmore, who wrote the plays, claims historical accuracy is his right eye, but not the eye itself, in *Corsica* in 1794. He did not usually wear a patch indoors, and though he did wear it on deck during battles, it is assumed it was taken off when he was injured at Trafalgar and carried below decks to die.

Baker's roll call

Even now they have not taken all the poetry out of politics. Tonight there will be a gathering of ministers at Victoria station. No, not an evacuation, but a book launch for *London Lines*, an anthology of poetry about the capital edited by Kenneth Baker, our very cultivated Minister of Industry and Information Technology.

Several of the poets Baker has chosen for inclusion have agreed to attend, and the affair will cross party lines since they include Lady Wilson and Roger Woddis, the satirical versifier of the *New Statesman*.

Double decker

An arctophile, a lover of bears, triumphed in the finals of the sandwich of the year competition yesterday. Elizabeth Walker, a restaurant manageress at ICL's Wilton plant on Merseyside, carried off both first prizes

against stiff (though fortunately not literally so) competition at the Flour Advisory Bureau.

Elizabeth, who owns six teddy bears, one of which she was clutching for luck, won £1,600. Her Cleveland Smokey, a heady mixture of smoked ham, red and green apples and mango chutney butter on wheatmeal bread, swept the board in the hand-held sandwich class, her Chicken Merlin, crumbled bacon, diced chicken and avocado pear bound in natural yoghurt and fresh cream flavoured with coriander and tabasco on brown bread, took the honours in the knife and fork section.

What she could do with some sliced grizzly I hesitate to imagine, but bear's paw is a well-established oriental delicacy.

One swallow

Dolamore, the independent wine merchants by appointment to the Queen, are to be distributors for the world's smallest hot water

"I'm just not sure, Tony, what a special relationship means any more..."



bottles — which is how the digestive nips called Underberg are often described.

Underberg's two centilitre bottles are supposed to be drained at a gulp for best restorative effect after a good meal. Some rate them as a hangover cure too, and Germans, who are renowned for gross appetites, swallow a million a day.

The red-stoppered bottles, wrapped in brown paper, bear the legend *Semper idem*, but legend I fear it is. Since Hubert Underberg founded the firm with a secret family recipe in 1846 it has been found that some of the herbs from 43 countries included in the original brew were actually

poisonous, and they are now omitted. Moreover, the proof — hitherto a high 84 degrees — is about to be reduced in an effort to keep down the price, as well as the meal.

... not a sip

They said anything could happen. Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, thought he was being very diplomatic when he laid in a bottle of Smirnoff vodka to entertain Nicolai Ouspensky, First Secretary at the Soviet Embassy, who had agreed to address a meeting on disarmament in his constituency.

Alas, the Russian refused point blank to drink it. "That is not vodka," he said. "It does not taste of anything. That is a drink for Americans."

Bank after bank in the United States is urging its customers to "put your money in the IRA". The initials, I am relieved to say, stand for Individual Retirement Account.

Opium's slave

Colin Davison, of Bransholme, near Hull, has discovered letters written by William Wilberforce, the anti-slavery campaigner, which are said to reveal that he enjoyed opium. A Sorbey's expert says: "They could be extremely valuable."

Yet as Aletha Hayter, the author of *Opium and the Romantic Imagination*, confirms, the fact that Wilberforce was an

opium addict most of his life is well known. He first took the drug while suffering an internal disorder. It became a habit which lasted 45 years.

Wilberforce was in good company. Apart from Thomas de Quincy, other nineteenth century figures who used the drug, which Baudelaire called his *vieille et terrible amie*, included Coleridge, Wilkie Collins, Edgar Allan Poe and possibly Keats.

Holy Muppet

That the Queen's press secretary, Michael Shea, really referred to Her Majesty as "Miss Piggyface" I cannot imagine, but I venture to suggest it would not be too terrible if he had. My illustration suggests the world's most beautiful Muppet may have been a Hindu goddess in a previous incarnation. It comes from the catalogue of the Hayward Gallery exhibition *In the Image of Man*, which identifies the Miss Piggy look-alike as Varaha, the female escort of Vishnu, the incarnation of Vishnu.

Basil's forte

Basil Fawcett has won the Queen's award for export achievement. John Cheese, his creator, is naturally delighted. Video Arts, the company which makes training films and which distributes two episodes of *Fawlty Towers* as such, subsidised Cheese's income while he was preparing the television series.

There are now almost 50 films, used by 18,000 companies in Britain, including 90 of the top 100, and in 24 countries around the world. Cheese says that at last he feels he has done something useful, but Fawcett says that training is a serious matter, and he is not surprised that Video Arts' frivolous attitude appeals to foreigners.

The Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce has cancelled a trade visit to Argentina this October because of the Falkland invasion. They will go instead to Chile.

Hamlet's ghost?

Anthony Andrews, lately of *Brideshead Revisited*, tells me the Algonquin Hotel in New York has found a successor to Hamlet, its white and marmalade cat who died of kidney failure after 12 years' service and sociability.

The hotel, much favoured by literary and theatrical men, has recruited a cat of uncannily similar appearance who has duly been christened Hamlet II.

PHS



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FIRST PRINCIPLES FIRST

"Then begin with blows, but when reverses come upon them they have recourse to words," said the Athenians long before such a device occurred to Argentina. The crisis of the Falkland Islands has been provoked by their decision to invade, not by the 150-year-old history of disputed claims between Britain and Argentina over the sovereignty of those islands. There may have been occasions during that time when Britain has refused to discuss the dispute or negotiate aspects of it. However, there have also been occasions, notably in 1948, when Britain offered to join with Argentina in a referral to the International Court at the Hague. Argentina refused; an act which was hardly consistent with its oft-proclaimed view of the soundness of its claim to sovereignty.

Inevitably, in negotiations, the desire to reach agreement threatens both sides' desire to secure objectives. When interrupted by an aggression, the only sound principle to apply is to restore the situation to that which obtained before the aggression. Failure to do so would only encourage every negotiator to seek to advance his cause by recourse to aggressive tactics whenever the pace of negotiations frustrated him. Yet the peaceful resolution of all disputes lies at the very heart of contemporary international law.

The British Government is wise therefore to avoid being hustled into accepting any formula offered by Argentina through Mr Haig simply because the world community would prefer the disputants to reach any agreed agreement sooner rather than a clearer one later. The world community is only a community because it has come to respect certain laws and conventions — certain modes of behaviour between states — which it has as much interest in respecting and preserving as Britain has. Those laws, that convention, have been flouted by Argentina; if the world community, in the interests of a quiet life, or under the particular influence of regional or post-colonial prejudices which have no relevance to this general principle, nevertheless wants to forget the principle, Britain must not forget it herself; and Argentina must come, perforce, to remember it.

Mr Haig's return to Washington indicated that he felt he had extracted all possible concessions from President Galtieri's Junta. It was right that he did not fly back to London with the Argentine proposals. That would seem to have implied that there was something which he felt he could endorse to the British Government and such an implication would have put undesired pressure on British ministers to appear cooperative. Mr Haig has not endorsed the Argentine proposals; and Mr Pym's forthcoming visit to Washington is rightly conceived as a British desire to continue negotiating while the fleet, which may have to squeeze more out of Argentina than Mr Haig has been able to

squeeze, continues its passage south. Nelson described a fleet of British ships of war as the best negotiators in Europe; that may now have to apply even more, so to the South Atlantic.

The original ingredients of this crisis are thus still with us, and virtually unchanged since the day of the first aggression. First, there is the law, both in regard to sovereignty and to the resolution of disputes between states. It is not necessary to go into copious legal detail to establish that Britain's title to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands was absolutely lawful at the time it was originally established, and whatever new circumstances may apply — that is still the legal basis on which sovereignty is assessed. Moreover, the claim by Argentina to extend its continental shelf to include the Falkland Islands is not only legally questionable as regards the shelf, but, even if valid, would not affect the issue of sovereignty of the land above the shelf. The Falklands belong to Britain.

Legally speaking, the invasion was also in breach of all current international laws. It was in breach of the UN Charter to refrain from the use of force against a country's territorial integrity and it was also in breach of the general obligation to pursue disputes through peaceful means. Finally, in law, Britain is fully covered under Article 51 to take action against aggression consistent with its inherent right of self defence though such action must be limited and proportionate. Nothing yet planned or suggested — task force, exclusion zone, or even reoccupation — exceeds that right.

The next aspect of the crisis concerns the people of the Falklands. There is again an undeniable legal right recognized by the international community to enable peoples to have self determination, either by independence, or through associate status, or by integration with other countries; but all by consent. The Falklanders are undeniably a "people" in this sense; and such a people is entitled to express its wishes through its elected leadership. So the Argentine invasion is also in breach of Article 24 of the UN Charter, concerning the right of all peoples to self-determination. In the interests of preserving respect for international law, therefore, enshrined in the UN Charter, and amplified by the recent Security Council resolution, nothing can or should now be agreed to which compromises those legal principles.

The third dimension of the crisis is the position of the two Governments at odds with each other. We have to respect the fact that, though illegal, the Argentine invasion represents perhaps the only popular event in recent Argentine history. The uncertainties and tensions within the Junta, and perhaps an underlying sense of Spanish machismo appalled at the prospect of losing a contest of wills with a woman, are not unimportant psychological factors when assessing the capacity of Argentina to give way on these fundamental

principles. But one should not be too bemused or seduced by such an argument. Argentina has shown in its dispute with Chile that it resolutely disregards the verdicts of mediators when they go against it. Several times Argentina and Chile have taken their dispute about the Beagle Channel to a mediator and when each time the verdict has gone to Chile, Argentina has revoked its agreement to abide by the verdict. The precedents therefore are discouraging.

Of course, there is much to negotiate about after these principles have been vindicated. There can be some room for an Argentine presence on the Falklands during the period when the wishes of the Islanders are being determined — though only under the most stringent conditions. There can also be a greater readiness on the part of the British Government to recognize that the issue of sovereignty is in dispute, emotionally, if not legally, and has to be resolved sometime soon. Perhaps Britain should suggest to Argentina that it is now taken to the Hague, where it belongs more than in the operations rooms of opposing navies.

It is held that overemphasis on the interests of the Islanders artificially narrows the issue and excludes a wider interest which should concern Britain's relationships with the whole continent of Latin America. But there are two sides to this argument. The frontiers of Latin America are not hermetically sealed with the authority of history. Disputes abound, which might find a new stimulus in the spectacle of Argentina successfully achieving an extension to her frontiers, and the upholding of a spurious claim, simply by force of arms. Belize is under threat; so is Guyana; Peru and Bolivia both contain strong revanchist claims on Chile; as does Argentina itself in the Beagle Channel. Moreover the arguments which Argentina maintains to uphold its claim to the Falklands might entitle Mexico some time in the future to advance the same kind of theories for reclaiming much of the Pacific southwest from the United States. Mr Haig — or more particularly Mrs Kirkpatrick — might brood seriously on that implication.

Obviously Britain's interests in Latin America will be damaged by a refusal to compromise on this dispute without letting the situation deteriorate further, perhaps even to the point where a serious political crisis is provoked in Argentina. That damage to Britain will have to be weighed up against an even wider interest in the world, to uphold international law, and to be seen to be a country which has the will and capacity to honour its word only in legal matters but in the much more crucial area of the defence of its people. "Britain has no eternal allies; and no eternal enemies. Only our interests are eternal," said Lord Palmerston. Our interests here require us to resolve this dispute peacefully if possible, but only in accordance with first principles.

THE TEMPTATION OF CHEAP PROMISES

The further away a party feels itself to be from political power, the sillier the promises it will make in order to win it. As the local elections approach, the Labour Party is again flirting with the temptation to make exactly the same mistake if it gains the national power as it made last time it did so, in 1974. The National Executive has not yet given its blessing to the proposal, publicly launched this week, for a year's freeze on council rents, but the pressures within the party to do so are strong.

In normal circumstances Labour would now be looking forward to dramatic gains in local elections fought against an unpopular government, for seats last contested at a moment when Labour itself was at a low point of popularity. But the decline in trust for Labour, and the rise of the Alliance, may have changed all that. Gains may well be modest. An eye-catching selling-point is needed, and a rents freeze may win some votes from tenants smarting from recent rent rises.

But some leaders in the party remember what happened after 1974. Whether they prevail or not will provide a clue to the current balance of power inside the party between Her Majesty's alternative Government and the vendors of undated promises and haywire theories. When Labour came to power, average council rents were 7.9 per cent of average earnings. The year's freeze ended at about the same time as inflation began to gather pace

as a result of the Government's other mismanagement. It was judged to be politically impossible to make up the lost ground, and by the time Labour lost office average rents had fallen to no more than 6.3 per cent of average earnings — far below the level required even to cover housing management and maintenance costs.

The new administration came to power determined to reverse this trend decisively: after successive increases, average rents have risen this month to a level twice as high, in cash terms, as that of 1979. Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on housing, claimed in December that this would bring them up to nine per cent of average earnings. The increase is certainly a stiff one over a short period, representing a larger rise in housing costs than families in other tenures have had to face.

But it is striking that there has been no strong movement of protest against the increases, even in London, where Mr Peter Tatchell has been busily promoting the idea of a rent strike. Undoubtedly this is because of the energetic steps taken to improve provision for tenants who find it hard to pay. A quarter of all tenants will have had this month's increase wholly met by supplementary benefit; another quarter qualify for rebates meeting 60 per cent of it. Maximum rebates have been trebled, and eligibility widened. That is the right approach. Council housing

should not be charity housing for the poor. A quarter of tenant households today have an income of £8,000 or more. Subsidy aimed effectively at those who need it is the way to ensure that the sector does not sink further towards charitable status.

Responsible Labour leaders know that. All the time the party was courting popularity in the seventies by shirking necessary increases, its official policy was that "over a period of years rents should keep broadly in line with changes in money incomes". The consequences of failure to live up to that principle were soon apparent. As real rents fell, central subsidy to housing had to rise by almost a fifth in real terms. The more subsidy the revenue account swallowed up, the less was available for capital spending.

As early as 1975 housing starts began to fall; by 1979 the headlong decline was in full spate. Wider public spending cuts continued until last year in spite of rising rents, but at the end of last year starts were 16 per cent up on a year earlier. Mr Peter Shore means, if he becomes Chancellor, to revive the economy with public works, especially in housing. If he does not head off the people in his party who can see no further than May, he will find, if he gets his chance, that the resources he needs for his investment will stream away into subsidies for the tenants who do not need them.

Keeping vehicles off pavements

From Mr Graham Chaine

Sir, A recently published Government report tells us (report, April 16) that our pavements and footways are deteriorating, that millions of pounds in compensation is paid annually to pedestrians who have fallen and sustained injuries as a result, and that much of the blame for the situation attaches to vehicles which mount the pavement. The average walker in most British urban areas does not need a 100-page report to know this. The encroachment of cars, lorries and motor cycles on to the pavement is a rapidly spreading offence. With streets increasingly congested and parking space increasingly hard to find, motorists now look upon pavements as an opportune extension of their domain, regardless of the rights of pedestrians on or near the pavement. The Highway Act of 1935 (Section 7 of the Road Traffic Act of 1974, which specifically bans parking on the pavement, though passed by Parliament, has yet to be implemented).

There are many streets in the West End of London, to take only one example, where the walker now often finds his way totally blocked and is obliged to risk his person in the carway. The police often claim to have more important offences to deal with, but surely it is in the interest of local councils, who have to foot the bill for smashed flagstones and other damage, to try to check this abuse. The solution in many urban areas would seem to be simple: large numbers of strategically placed bollards. Bollards from pre-motorised times have constituted the pedestrian's traditional protection against wheeled menace; they need not be unsightly nor expensive; certainly the single expense of their installation would compare favourably with the endless outlay on pavement repairs.

Yours faithfully,

GRAHAM CHAINE,
47 St Barnabas Road,
Cambridge.
April 18.

University Principal

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London

Sir, It is bad enough to read in *The Times* (April 20) of an appointment to the Principalship of London University before such an appointment has been made. But to read in addition the names of allegedly unsuccessful candidates is still more seriously disturbing.

April as "the cruellest month" is one characteristic of Eliot's *Waste Land* too, and I recall that in April, 1981, Lord Scarman had to protest to you in the strongest terms of "the damage" you had caused "to the true interests of a great university" and the "embarrassment, even distress, to individuals".

That was in connection with the Vice-Chancellorship. This new irresponsibility deserves equally vigorous reproof and equally profound apology to the gentlemen named. Yours faithfully, RANDOLPH QUIRK, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1. April 20.

Channel tunnel

From Mr Roger Coombs

Sir, Your leader on the doubtful future of the Channel tunnel (April 14) suggests that British Rail's "mousehole" raises no environmental problem. In the same breath you declare, somewhat wistfully, how pleasant it would be to have "car and container trains from Kent to all parts of Europe".

Not so, Sir, for the people of Kent and those who love its byways of orchards and hop gardens! If the mousehole is to emerge in Kent at the kind of road-rail interchange you hanker after then our rural roads would be ravaged by intolerable traffic funneled from all parts of the country, an environmental consequence that has been continually discounted by politicians and planners.

Your comment on the Cairncross report also suggests that the critical difference between the 1974 and 1982 concepts — the abandonment of the high-speed rail link between London and the tunnel. This above all other factors makes the British Rail scheme ineffectual and uncompetitive compared with existing ways of crossing the Channel. Yours faithfully, ROGER COOMBS, Spindles, Goudhurst, Kent.

Chiming in concert

From Professor Sydney A. Urry

Sir, Many quarts watches now on the market possess a so-called hourly chime. I am sure that this facility serves a useful purpose but at a recent Barbican concert I found that these timepieces can be distracting during a quiet passage in the music. What will happen if these devices become universal among audiences? The accuracy of the timekeeping might result in two thousand of them, sounding simultaneously. At a conference on micro-chip technology, this might not be inappropriate but in the theatre it could only lend weight to Othello's cry, "Silence that dreadful bell". Yours faithfully, SYDNEY A. URRY, 12 Whitfield Road, Highbury Grove, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. April 15.

British principles in Falklands context

From Lord Jenkins of Putney

Sir, The talk of principles in connection with the Falklands dispute, whether in Parliament or in your columns, is singularly unconvincing. The country of Suez, Cyprus, Diego Garcia and the British Nationality Act cannot effectively disguise its current bout of post-imperial jingoism as a world crusade against aggression. Only yesterday we were pocketing the dictator's pesos in exchange for the military means of his attack, and even now our bankers are once again taking the view that it may be unprofitable but it makes sense not to be too financially tough on the aggressor.

I am no more a supporter of President Reagan than of Mrs Thatcher, but Lord Bethell's argument (April 16) that by working to secure a peaceful solution of the Falklands crisis the United States is compromising its democratic devotion to democracy is outrageous. To say the least of it, it is a very ungracious response to Mr Haig's untiring efforts to get us out of this mess.

If we are so concerned to teach aggressors a lesson why did we find the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, where we had forces on the spot, so acceptable that Turkey is still in democratic NATO? Is its junta so much better than the Argentinean one?

Of course, any American Government, North or South, is an American Government and must regard our retention of the Falklands as a colonial hangover which we should have shed long ago. It is no use prating about the "sacramentality" of the islands because the Americans know we can be bribed. For some nuclear weaponry for Poland on the cheap, we not merely abandoned more of the Queen's subjects than live on the Falklands to their fate, we threw them off Diego Garcia into abject poverty in Mauritius and handed over their depopulated island to the U.S. Forces. The Americans and others also know that only a few weeks ago this principled Government denied the Falklanders the fully British status they reluctantly had to concede to the Gibraltarians.

It is time we came off it and adjusted ourselves to our real status in the world, which is that of the most artistic nation on earth.

Yours faithfully, HUGH JENKINS, House of Lords. April 17.

From Mr Derrick Wyatt

Sir, If the United Kingdom and Argentina are in dispute about the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, which is a legal dispute if ever there was one, the International Court of Justice would appear to provide a more appropriate means of settlement than indirect negotiation.

Let the Argentinean troops withdraw, and the fleet stay its hand, pending the decision of the

Christians and war

From the Chairman of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Sir, For any Christian country to go to war is an affront to its professed faith. For two Christian nations to go to war against each other is a blatant denial of that faith.

The bishops of our own national church, meeting in their Lambeth conferences, have five times declared that "war as a method of settling international disputes is incompatible with the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ".

At the last Lambeth Conference in 1978 they went even further and declared that Jesus "made evident that self-giving love, the way of the Cross, is the way to reconciliation in all relationships and conflicts. Therefore the use of violence is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel".

Would the bishops now be willing to tell the nation that this truth does not apply to the present conflict in which our nation is now engaged, and that therefore the Gospel should be suspended for the period of the emergency? Or would they be prepared to say that in the name of Christ a Christian solution must be found?

After all, there is a clear precedent for exactly such a solution concerning one of the nations involved in the present conflict. At the beginning of this century, when Chile and Argentina were about to go to war against each other, they desisted in the name of Christ. Instead, out of old Argentinean cannon, they erected on the border between the two countries a great bronze statue of Christ. The inscription read, and still reads: "These mountains will fall before Argentines and Chileans break the peace sworn at the feet of Christ the Redeemer".

Acting on such a wonderful precedent, could not the two Christian nations involved in the present dispute make peace with one another in the name of Christ, and out of the money they would otherwise have spent in launching one another with expensive and deadly modern weapons build, say, an abbey on the Falkland Islands as a shrine of peace?

Following the example set in these islands of the abbey at Otford, at the beginning of this century, could not the Christian mission of peace to the whole world to lead mankind back from the brink of nuclear disaster? Yours faithfully, GORDON WILSON, 14 Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe, Cheshire.

Lost for words

From Mrs Susan M. Lloyd

Sir, As editor of the new edition of *Rogers' Thesaurus*, I am disturbed at the misunderstanding which has arisen over so-called "sexist" terms. There is, of course, no question of removing such well established words as "mankind" and "countryman" from the *Thesaurus*. What I have tried to do is make the key words throughout more up to date — "essay" becomes "attempt", for instance — and more general so that they reflect correctly the range of words in each paragraph. So, the group of words for country people is now headed "country-dweller" rather than "countryman", but it includes "countryman" (in their other senses, of course, these words appear elsewhere. "Country dweller" under "inhabitant" and "fellow countryman and woman" under "native").

Certainly there is a tendency in modern English to make women more explicit in the language, rather than assume that they are included in such terms as "countryman" or "man in the street". I have therefore taken care to insert female or neutral equivalents where these exist: "master or mistress of the situation", "man or woman in the street", "spokesperson" and so on.

I hope this letter will allay any

Trust to safeguard countryside

From the Chairman of the Exmoor Society

Sir, The energetic action and heavy expenditure on the inner cities described by Michael Heseltine in his article (April 14) contrasts with the failure of efforts to protect the countryside. The sterile controversy between farming bodies (letter, April 5) and conservationists shows that neither side has taken account of current financial and political realities.

A new approach to conservation is needed so that essential landscape is protected at minimum cost to public funds. Exmoor provides a good example of the general problem and also an indication of how it may be solved.

A large area of moorland is to be sold in the near future and there is grave concern that it will be developed for more intensive farming. Much of the land is within the region which Lord Porchester recommended should be retained as open moorland for all time.

We are anxious to avoid a long drawn-out argument over a period of years about management agreements and compensation for restrictions on development. It is therefore vital that the land should be bought outright and let to farmers subject to covenants that will ensure the continuance of the traditional landscape.

The land could be bought by the National Park Authority, but there will be strong local opposition if money obtained by cutting essential services is used for public purchase. The National Trust already owns a substantial estate on Exmoor, but they do not have sufficient funds to buy more and are unable to launch a public appeal as they are already raising large sums for other projects.

As an alternative, the methods used in the inner cities to combine the efforts of public and private enterprise could be applied in the countryside. A special trust could be set up representing the conservation bodies, the Countryside Commission and Nature Conservancy Council, the National Heritage Fund and the National Park Authority. Such a consortium could be used to protect the moorland just as the Groundwork Trust has been established to deal with urban wastelands as a joint enterprise representing the public, private and voluntary sectors.

In addition, such a trust could well point the way towards a system of protecting the most important rural areas in other parts of the country by making available adequate funds which are so conspicuously lacking at present.

Yours faithfully, GUY SOMERSET, Chairman. The Exmoor Society, Hoar Oak House, Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset. April 16.

From the Reverend Anthony Thurstfield

Sir, Your assertion in the leader "A fellow-Christian" (April 10) about the predominance of Irish character of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain" should be rigorously challenged. As one who has spent over 30 years in parishes in several English counties (I have served in five, well spread over central and southern England) I well know that there are substantial Roman Catholic communities of authentically English lineage, in all sections of society, not least among the professional classes and the Armed Forces. The number of RCs in the world of literature and the arts is, as is well known, very high.

Some writers in your columns, from exalted places, seem to offer that the Anglican Church has, and always has had, a sort of monopoly of fair play and tolerance, which is under threat from the moves towards Anglican-Roman accord. This I fear is not so. I find that parishioners are so prejudiced when I tell them of the near-300 years of civil disabilities which the English state and Church imposed upon RCs until the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, for only then were they legally allowed to take service under the Crown, in municipal office or in Parliament.

Catholic apologists would be entitled to point this out. Perhaps they are too "English" and reluctant to do so. Are we in the Church of England too uncharitable to admit it? Yours faithfully, ANTHONY THURSTFIELD, Reydon Vicarage, Southwold, Suffolk. April 10.

Chronic disorders

From Mr H. C. Seigal

Sir, Mrs Barbara Stalbow complains (April 15) about the pertinacity of sticky labels. Another of the irritations of modern living, and a more serious one, is the impenetrability of plastic wrappings. Have you, Sir, ever experienced the frustration of trying to puncture the deceptively flimsy covering of a box of chocolates with no other instrument at hand than a blunt fingernail? Have you ever tackled the more serious problem of getting at a slice of supermarket cheese inside its transparent corset?

Yours faithfully, H. C. SEIGAL, 17 Park Place Villas, W2. April 16.

From Mr A. C. Norfolk

Sir, I was pleased to see Mr Osmond's admirable letter (April 16) about the alleged sexist bias of the previous editions of *Rogers' Thesaurus*. Having worn out three editions over the past 50 years, I was intending to buy Mrs Lloyd's latest revision of this classic, but have decided instead to renovate/restore/repair/mend my present tattered copy.

Could I suggest that when the next edition is produced and, as I hope, the book reverts to its real function as a reflection of contemporary usage and does not presume to be an arbiter of taste, there is an additional entry in the section on "ridicule": "Raise a laugh, make a fool of oneself, be ridiculous, do a Lloyd"? Yours faithfully, A. C. NORFOLK, Grove End, Mount Street, Diss, Norfolk. April 16.

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I hope this letter will allay any

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The Good Relations Group, Britain's leading public relations consultancy, requires a capable, reliable Secretary/PA for the Managing Director of its busy design and advertising company. Excellent skills, together with the ability to use initiative and work under pressure are essential. Top salary for the right person. If you would like to work with this friendly team, call Jo Crossland on 01-631 0866. No agencies.

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M.D.'s Secretary

£8,000

A competent Secretary (male or female) is required for the Managing Director of an international manufacturing concern situated in South Bucks, with easy access to the M3, M4 and M40 motorways.

Essential requirements are:

* Good education
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If you are interested please send a brief C.V. to the Confidential Reply Service, Ref: AEM 345, Austin Knight Limited, 66a High Street, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9EY.

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SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

SALARY RANGE: £5,750-£6,704 p.a.

The Marketing Division of the English Tourist Board is looking for a Secretary to the Director of Marketing. The duties of the Secretary/P.A. include the selection of the menu, the booking of the hall, the arrangement of the seating, the collection of the money, the distribution of the programme, the collection of the money, the distribution of the programme.

We are currently looking for a Personal Secretary, in their mid 20's, with the confidence and experience to meet the demands of this challenging environment. Assisting the Director of Marketing you will use your secretarial skills and organisational ability to the full, arranging meetings, preparing agendas and taking minutes. All of these duties demand a mature approach and a high level of proficiency. Liaising with departmental heads you will be relied upon to ensure the smooth running of the office at all times, particularly when under pressure.

In view of the important nature of this position, previous secretarial experience at a senior level is essential, together with good shorthand, audio and typing skills. In return we offer excellent conditions of service including 22 days holidays, LVs and proficiency payments of up to £1,008.

For more information please contact the Personnel Department, English Tourist Board, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 on 01-730 3400 Ext. 342.

SECRETARY: DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Wanted to work with a busy office dealing with subsidy to theatre companies and new playwriting. This is an interesting post which would suit someone with good secretarial skills and previous experience of office work—particularly of dealing with people over the telephone. Some experience of taking minutes at meetings would be an advantage.

Salary, according to age and experience, on a scale between £5,063 and £5,189 per annum. Additional allowances may be obtained after testing for certain secretarial speeds.

For an application form and job description, contact the Personnel Department, 125 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. Tel. (01) 629 9495 Ext. 31. Completed application forms to be returned by 5th May 1982.

Arts Council
OF GREAT BRITAIN

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LONDON W1—£7,000

A leading firm of management consultants requires a person to join a small and lively team based at Oxford Circus. The duties of the Secretary/P.A. include the selection of the menu, the booking of the hall, the arrangement of the seating, the collection of the money, the distribution of the programme, the collection of the money, the distribution of the programme.

Please send c.v. to: Hoggett Bowers, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London W1R 9HF for the attention of Mrs P. Hill.

SENIOR PA MARKETING & SALES

Croydon Salary £7,000 neg.

A leading service organisation requires a senior personnel assistant for the Director of Marketing and Sales. Only applicants with first class secretarial and administrative skills will be considered. Preferred age: 25-35.

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CONSULTANT

SALARY NEGOTIABLE

We require an experienced recruitment consultant familiar with the recruitment of secretaries, P.A.s, and other office staff. The duties of the Consultant include the selection of the menu, the booking of the hall, the arrangement of the seating, the collection of the money, the distribution of the programme, the collection of the money, the distribution of the programme.

For more details, contact Angela George.

Calibre Recruitment Consultants
16 Service Street, London, W1

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OIL PA/SECRETARY £6,500

An outstanding and highly efficient secretary is required by a State Oil Agency of a Middle East country.

In addition to general secretarial skills, applicants should have a keen interest in world affairs. Fluency in other languages is a definite asset.

Preferred age 22-35.

Very pleasant working conditions in elegant Park Lane offices.

Please ring Miss J. Gerrard on 01-629 8090, or send CV to: **OIL PA/SECRETARY £6,500**, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London W1W 0OH.

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Residential property by Baron Phillips

The law that changes nothing

The main provisions of the 1979 Estate Agents Act, which comes into force on May 3, have provoked an angry response from a number of well established estate agents and professional bodies. Not because they object to its controls but because they do not believe it goes far enough.

Despite attempts by Parliament over almost a century to restrict their activities, estate agents enjoy almost total freedom. The last legislation affecting estate agents came into operation in November 1970. This banned the fixing of fees by groups of agents or professional bodies.

The latest legislation attempts to provide protection for money and deposits. Clients' money must be kept in clearly identified accounts and the property retained. Agents will have to pay interest where the amount of the deposit is more than £500 and the interest at least £10.

The Act also calls for full disclosure of an agent's private interest in a deal. Bankrupts may only be employees of an agency, and pre-contract deposits will be banned in Scotland.

The Department of Trade says that failure to comply with these requirements may lead to criminal proceedings, or to banning action by the Director General of Fair Trading, or both.

But what really does it all add up to? Although agents sometimes ask for a small holding deposit as an act of faith that the vendor or purchaser really means to go ahead, few people actually pay out the money. They are far more likely to hand the deposit to the vendor's solicitor.

Among the critics of the Act is Mr. Kenneth Forbes, technical officer of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auction-



A dilapidated farmhouse set in 12 acres near Lambourn and Newbury is on the market through John German Ralph Pay for £70,000. Built in the last century, the house has been unoccupied for about 10 years. It consists of two to three reception rooms, five bedrooms and a bathroom and included in the sale are two barns. Further information can be obtained from the agents' Ramsbury (Wiltshire) office.

He describes it as a piece of "negative licensing" because it will not prevent undesirable from entering the profession but will weed them out only after they have broken the law.

At present anyone can set up shop and call himself an estate agent without having to pass an examination of any kind or undertake a test of professional competence. This hardly reassures people who often ques-

tion what an agent does to earn his fees.

One is appalled that section 16 (governing professional standards and competency) is not being implemented, says Mr. Forbes. He agrees that while it used to be commonplace for a purchaser to leave a deposit with an estate agent it is becoming rarer these days and as such the Act will have little effect. Mr. Nigel Stephens, senior

partner of Whiteheads, operating mainly in Hampshire and Sussex, says the Act is too late and its achievements are far too little.

Apart from the stringent rules governing clients' money the Act legally obliges an agent to agree with any person, before accepting instructions to sell his house, the commission to be paid, the circumstances in which it will be payable and any other liabilities to be incurred by the property owner. An agent must also disclose any personal interest in the transaction.

Mr. Stephens says: "These measures may help to reduce the risk of misunderstanding and protect the public from the few unscrupulous agents. Reputable agents are not being asked to do anything they are not already doing."

Mr. Stephens accuses Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, the former Minister for Consumer Affairs, of interpreting the Act and the evidence of professional bodies in a way which will give little benefit to the public. Like Mr. Forbes he is worried that the Act lays down no minimum standards of competence.

"It still remains open, therefore, for anybody without qualifications or experience to go into business as an estate agent, surveyor, valuer or auctioneer because none of these titles are protected by statute," he says. The public had more to lose from incompetence than from dishonesty.

Both men are scathing about the Act's limited protection for the public from losing money lodged with an estate agent. Mr. Forbes points out that the main professional bodies run a bonding scheme to protect the public if an agent goes bankrupt or absconds with money.

PROPERTY

JOHN D WOOD

SOMERSET/DORSET BORDER—BLACKMORE VALE

BOWLING GREEN ESTATE

Divided for sale in lots.

A DELIGHTFUL HAM STONE HOUSE, FOR CONVERSION INTO:

Bowling Green House: Hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Garages, grounds, tennis court, stable yard, paddock. 23 ACRES.

Bowling Green Cottage: Hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Garden and grounds, orchard. 1 ACRE.

Also charming cottage: 3/4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Outbuildings. 1 ACRE.

Field and woodland (field at present let). 105 ACRES.

IN ALL ABOUT 30 ACRES WITH VACANT POSSESSION (except for field).

FREEHOLD FOR SALE BY AUCTION

On 24 May 1982 at the Post House Hotel, Sherborne in 4 LOTS (unless sold privately)

51 East Street, Taunton, Tel. (0423) 78111/2

Barkley Square Office (Ref. DCM)

KENT

London 55 miles. Ashford 15 miles.

(Cannon Street/Charing Cross 1 hour, Victoria 1½ hours)

AN ATTRACTIVE HOUSE, OFFERING EXCELLENT FAMILY ACCOMMODATION, BACKING ON TO OPEN FARMLAND.

Hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, domestic office, suite of bedroom and bathroom, 5 further bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Oil fired central heating.

Excellent outbuildings including 2 garages, stable, workshop and store, greenhouse. Gardens and grounds, hard tennis court, paddock.

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A DELIGHTFUL MANOR HOUSE BUILT OF LOCAL STONE

In a charming setting

Reception Hall, Four Reception Rooms, Breakfast Room, Six Bedrooms and Three Bathrooms, Garage for four cars. Modern Stable Yard with Six Boxes. Beautiful Grounds with Hard Tennis Court, Landscaped and Woodland Gardens, Two Pasture Fields, railed Paddock and Woodlands, 24 ACRES.

Views over beautiful farmland to South Downs

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An exceptional small estate with a fine listed Georgian House occupying an outstanding position completely surrounded by unspoilt farmland.

Fine hall, 4 reception rooms, domestic offices, staff sitting room, cellar, 6 principal bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, 7 secondary bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

Oil fired central heating. Garage block for 5 with staff flat. Attractive formal and woodland garden.

Hard tennis court and heated swimming pool. Two bungalows and lodge. Range of farm/stable buildings. Paddocks, woodland and arable.

In all about 94 acres

(Ref. MLD)

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Humberts



Buckinghamshire 625 acres

Wendover 1 mile. Amersham 8 miles. London 35 miles (M1/4000 38 minutes).

A beautiful estate in the Chilterns with a fine house and an excellent arable and dairy farm.

4 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, oil central heating, Staff house, 3 garages, Outbuildings, Lodge, Garden, Walled kitchen garden, Woodland, Paddock, Modern Farmhouse 3 cottages, Modern dairy and pig units, Listed farm buildings and cottage. Video available.

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By Direction of Dr. L. T. Hillier

Near Bath

Bath 2 miles (Paddington 70 minutes). Easy access to M4.

A fine Anne House with Tudor origins and the

reaching views over the River Avon and meadow land beyond.

3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, oil central heating.

Staff accommodation. Garaging for 2 cars. Outbuildings. Large

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11th and 12th century stone tower. 11th century

Joint Agents: Roger V. Coward, Bath. Tel: (0225) 314543 and

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Tel: (0439) 55681. (1170022/DMLB)

6 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2 3DB

Telephone: 31-242 3121. Telex: 27444

Lane Fox and Partners

HAMPSHIRE/BERKSHIRE BORDER

Kingsclere 2 miles. Newbury 3 miles.

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An outstanding residential country estate with

exquisite mature garden, fine views over its own farmland

and fine views over its own farmland

Hall, cloakroom, 4 reception rooms, modern domestic

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buildings including garaging and stabling. Attractive

cottage, 2 railed paddocks, arable land and woodland,

farmbuildings.

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FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY

AS A WHOLE OR IN 2 LOTS

Additional 44 ACRES available if required

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HAMPSHIRE

Basingstoke 7 miles. Reading 10 miles. London 49 miles

M4 9 miles. M3 3 miles

A MOST ATTRACTIVE PERIOD COUNTRY HOUSE

Situated in an outstanding rural position

surrounded by its own delightful garden and grounds

Hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, study/nursery, staff

sitting room, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, oil-fired central

heating. Useful outbuildings, including garaging. Mature

garden, cottage, two excellent paddocks.

ABOUT 12 ACRES

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY

Lane Fox & Partners—London Office

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COTSWOLDS

In the Windrush Valley, Cotswolds 6 miles

A very well situated cottage on the edge of Naunton

estate, unspoilt rural views, 2 reception rooms, 2 bed-

rooms. Lovely garden, 2 paddocks, stabling and other

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AUCTION: 20th May (Price Guide £50,000)

London Office: 35 North Audley Street, London W1.

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Banbury Office: Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Oxon.

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Having outstanding authority over the adjoining Forest

Commission land towards the City and the Forest

character houses, 1920's with quality fittings

now requiring some improvement. Ideal family accommodation

5 beds, dressing rm., 2 cars, 20' x 10' hall, kitchen with

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room, 10' x 10' bathroom, 10' x 10' double garage with

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house, 10' x 10' double garage with excellent left over. Boiler

rm., workshop, greenhouse, 10' x 10' double garage with

excellent left over. Boiler rm., workshop, greenhouse,

10' x 10' double garage with excellent left over. Boiler

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Divisional Court
Law Report April 21 1982
Queen's Bench Division

Queen's Bench Division

Circumstances of criminal libel


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Frank Johnson in the Commons

Jenkins rolls a jowl at the Falklands

Still no sign of the eventual outcome in the South Atlantic, but there was some movement yesterday on the home front. It took the form of Mr Roy Jenkins.

The movement was initially confined to those rather distinguished jowls of his. They began to roll about the moment Mrs Thatcher arrived for Prime Minister's question time.

While she answered other Members, the rest of Mr Jenkins began to move importantly in his seat below the gangway facing her.

He consulted some notes. He advanced to the edge of his seat with some deliberation. It was clear that he was going to put a question. This was in itself an event of a certain significance. Nothing had so far been heard from him in this crisis. Since it arose, he had all but disappeared from the public gaze.

This absence was all the more marked because in the days immediately before the Argentine action he was the subject of all our attention. He had won Hillhead. He had taken his seat. He has put a notably inexpressible, but no doubt distinguished, maiden question to the Prime Minister about micro-chips. All things seemed possible for him. But within days Dr David Owen had seized the SDP controls and was roaring away on the subject of submarines, frigates, and vertical take-off.

Dr Owen is at home with such matters. Mr Jenkins is not. Like Switzerland, he is prosperous, comfortable, civilized and almost entirely landlocked. His only previous contact with the high seas has been in various good fish restaurants.

Registered as a statesman

Instead of the vertical, he prefers the horizontal take-off. The unburied rise to shake a few hands in a shopping precinct after an afternoon nap at a by-election.

In addition to all these disqualifications for the times in which we at present live, one suspects that he is almost certainly a Carringtonian at heart: a man of the world who believes that the Falklands

are a far away country of which we know too much. So it is an appalling situation in which he finds himself so soon after his triumphant return. None the less, being officially registered as a statesman, he just had to put up a show sooner or later. So yesterday he rose.

There was a murmur of expectation on both sides of the House, much of it slightly ironic. They all knew that Mr Jenkins was not really the man for the hour.

Darting fish-like movement

"Will the Right Hon Lady, in view of the strong all-party support which the Government has rightly received during the past two-and-a-half weeks," he began, "be in mind that she will be expected to take future, I hope and believe, untroubled decisions."

At this point, as well as the statesman's emphasis on the word "untroubled", he made one of the two famous hand movements he deploys to illustrate anything. One is a turn of the wrist with half-closed palm as if he is unscrewing a light bulb. The other is a darting, fish-like movement of the whole hand. Yesterday we got the darting, fish-like movement.

"...untroubled decisions in an equally non-party way. This demands more than merely asking the Paymaster General (Mr Cecil Parkinson, who is chairman of the Conservative Party, to a meeting of senior ministers last night. Will she seriously consider the proposal made by the hon Member for Cardiff?"

Whereupon, he sat down. And that was his grand design? Apparently so. Research revealed that Mr Jenkins was referring to Mr Howells the Liberal Member from Cardigan. His proposal? All-party consultations, apparently. That, then, was the Jenkins strategy to deal with Galtieri: tea at number ten. "I must confess, I had expected a more fundamental point from the Right Hon Gentleman," Mrs Thatcher told him.

But we still do not know Mrs Thatcher's intentions. In a few days, the Jenkins All-Party Tea Force may look the less risky plan. By then it may be too late.



Against a background of Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters, Royal Marines line up at dawn for a weapons check on board HMS Hermes.

Naval force 'heads for S Georgia' but Whitehall stays silent

continued from page 1

Mr David Crouch and Sir William van Straubenzee seemed to have been among the very few who were anxious about the possible use of force. The majority of those who spoke were said to have sounded impatient at the delayed arrival of the task force in the South Atlantic and at the continued diplomatic activity.

None the less, the party as a whole is strongly in support, for the time being, of the Government's policy of seeking a diplomatic solution with the naval task force to strengthen their hand.

Potential differences among Conservative MPs emerged in broadcast interviews yesterday. Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the

backbench 1922 committee, so that it might then be used as a forward operating base for an assault on the Falklands. It would also tighten the pressure on the Buenos Aires Government.

But it is unlikely that the grouping heading for the isolated dependency would be as large and as powerful as the *Boston Globe* report suggested.

There has been consistent speculation that the task force would first try to recapture South Georgia from the handful of Argen-

tine soldiers stationed there, so that it might then be used as a forward operating base for an assault on the Falklands. It would also tighten the pressure on the Buenos Aires Government.

But it is unlikely that the grouping heading for the isolated dependency would be as large and as powerful as the *Boston Globe* report suggested.

Britain could accelerate the pace of things by sending frigates and anti-aircraft destroyers ahead to join the submarines in the Falklands area within the next 48 hours, it is learnt authoritatively. But the Government is clearly content for the time being to apply the pressure gently while allowing time for a political settlement.

Widespread criticism of junta's refusal to involve politicians

Continued from page 1

steadfastly support the invasion of the islands and are prepared to go to war to retain them.

But there is widespread criticism of the junta's refusal to involve the politicians. Señor Carlos Coria, the leader of the Radical Party said: "Many confusing and contradictory versions are going around, and politicians know only what they read in the papers. If the junta want us to step-up support for the reconquest of the Malvinas (Falklands) they have got to let us know the real state of negotiations."

It appears that the military leaders told Mr Alexander Haig, the American secretary of State, that a final decision would have to be reached by December 31 and

that they wanted some kind of assurance that they could expect a favourable outcome.

While the politicians were being briefed today, the cabinet was meeting to discuss the reaction of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, to the junta's offer to take the central question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to the United Nations.

Reports in several Argentine newspapers said today that Mr Haig told the junta that their proposals for peace might not go far enough to satisfy the British government. "If they are turned down there will be war", he is reported as saying. Señor Nicanor Costa Mendez, the Foreign Minister, is said to have replied: "If there is,

your country will be responsible."

Señor Mendez went to Casa Rosada this afternoon for consultation with General Galtieri and there was some suggestion tonight that he might travel to Washington, but the Foreign Ministry refused to comment.

'Nixon drunk' denied

New York. — Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, has denied that President Nixon was ever drunk while facing crucial decisions. Speaking in a television programme, he rebutted allegations in the May issue of *Atlantic* magazine that Mr Nixon was frequently drunk at critical times.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust, attends selection committee for United Kingdom Scholars, Nuffield College, Regent's Park, London, 11.45.
The Duke of Kent visits 27th Annual International Gas Turbine Conference and Exhibition, Wembley Conference Centre and Arena, 3.15.

Exhibitions in progress
Sculptures by Oscar Nemon, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Mon to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4; (until May 23).
Prints by Ying Yung Li, paintings by Julie Cheng and Folk Art of West Bengal, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5; (until May 2).

The Dark Hills, the Heavy Clouds, paintings and drawings of Wales, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (until May 23).

Drawings, watercolours and graphic work by Oskar Kokoschka, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield; Mon to

Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 2).
Paintings and drawings by Robin Bowness, Town Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Ebury, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sun 12 to 5, closed Sat; (until May 9).
An Alternative Art, exhibition of American primitive painting, Museum and Art Gallery, Worthing; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (until May 11).

Drawings and prints by Stephanie Fryer, Museum Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5; (until May 8).

The Anatomy of the Horse by George Stubbs, Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, Suffolk; Tues to Sat 12 to 12.30 and 2 to 5; (until May 16).

Queen's birthday

The Queen was born on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, London. There will be a 41 gun salute by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in Hyde Park (over the Mall) at 12 noon, and a 62 gun salute by the Honourable Artillery Company, Tower Wharf, EC3, at 1.

Roads

London and the South-east M1: Traffic on the M1 at junction 13 (Bedford A5140) closed; minor repairs between junctions 12 and 13. A281: Temporary signals at junction 5 of Horsham. A12: Overhaul of works W of Chelmsford; long delays.

Midlands: A625: Closed at Mam Tor, Derbyshire, diversion. A5: Single line traffic and temporary signals N of Nuneaton. A46: Temporary signals near junction 16 of M1; also between Wellingborough and Little Ilchester, Northamptonshire.

North: A100: A66(M): Lane closures N of Scotch Corner to junction with A68, and on A66(M), N Yorkshire. All: Roadworks at Burneside, Barlborough, S Yorkshire, long delays. A6120: Roadworks on Leeds outer ring road at Westwood Lane junction.

South: A449: Roadworks N of Whitehill Farm on Caerleon Monmouth road. A4042: Roadworks near Croesyceiliog by-pass, between Newport and Pontypool. A303: Lane closures at Amesbury, Wiltshire. Scotland: A93: Temporary roadworks at Dundee Road, Perth. M90: Single lane northbound at junction 3 (Cowdenbeath); lane closures both ways at junction 2 (A923, Dunfermline). M9: Lane closures from Craigie Road (junction 10) to Dumbarton Road.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending April 11:

- | Rank | Programme | Channel |
|------|--|---------|
| 1 | Coronation Street (Wed) | ITV |
| 2 | Granada (18.30m) | ITV |
| 3 | Thames (18.20m) | ITV |
| 4 | Coronation Street (Mon) | ITV |
| 5 | Minder, Thames (15m) | ITV |
| 6 | 3-2-1, Yorkshire (13.30m) | ITV |
| 7 | Give Us A Cue, Thames (13.35m) | ITV |
| 8 | Where There's Life... Yorkshire (12.55m) | ITV |
| 9 | 7-Family Fortunes, Central (12.55m) | ITV |
| 10 | Crossroads (Tues) Central (12.55m) | ITV |
| 11 | Crossroads (Wed) (12.45m) | ITV |
| 12 | News and Sport (Sat) | BBC 1 |
| 13 | Dallas (13.25m) | BBC 1 |
| 14 | Open All Hours (12.45m) | BBC 1 |
| 15 | World Superstars '82 (12.20m) | BBC 1 |
| 16 | Top of the Pops (12.05m) | BBC 1 |
| 17 | The Kenny Everett Television Show (11.00m) | BBC 1 |
| 18 | Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (11.55m) | BBC 1 |
| 19 | A Whale For The Killing (11.50m) | BBC 1 |
| 20 | Seven Years of Parkinson (10.55m) | BBC 1 |
| 21 | The Scarlet Buccaneer (10.20m) | BBC 1 |
| 22 | Pol Black '82 (9.55m) | BBC 2 |
| 23 | Marl Caine (6.15m) | BBC 2 |
| 24 | Nancy Astor (Wed and Sun) (5.75m) | BBC 2 |
| 25 | Des O'Connor Tonight (5.75m) | BBC 2 |
| 26 | The Mike Harding Show (5.20m) | BBC 2 |
| 27 | The Treasure of Sierra Madre (4.70m) | BBC 2 |
| 28 | The Candidate (4.70m) | BBC 2 |
| 29 | Heart Transplant (4.50m) | BBC 2 |
| 30 | The Wolfen (4m) | BBC 2 |
| 31 | Call My Bluff (4m) | BBC 2 |

Weather forecast

A weak trough will move into W Scotland and N Ireland.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S and SW England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Dry, variable cloud, sunny intervals; wind variable, light to moderate; max temp 15 to 17C (59 to 63F).

E NW, Central N and NE England, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Dry, sunny periods; wind variable or W light; max temp 15 to 17C (59 to 63F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: Mostly dry, bright or sunny periods; becoming cloudier later; wind W, light to moderate; max temp 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).

SW, NE and NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland: Bright or sunny to start, becoming cloudier with rain at times, clearing later; wind SW, moderate to fresh; max temp 10 to 13C (50 to 55F).

Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy with rain; first, becoming cloudier with rain; wind SW, moderate to fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Mostly dry for tomorrow and Friday; wind W, light to moderate; rather warm.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel: Wind NW moderate, good; sea slight. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, moderate; sea slight.

Sun rises: 5.53 am Sun sets: 8.07 pm
Moon rises: 5.22 am Moon sets: 4.59 pm
New moon: April 23

Lighting-up time

TODAY
London 8.37 pm to 5.21 am
Bristol 8.42 pm to 5.31 am
Edinburgh 8.50 pm to 5.24 am
Perth 8.55 pm to 5.46 am

Yesterday

Temperature at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, fair; S, sun.
Belfast: C 10.60 F 51.28
Birmingham: C 10.60 F 51.28
Bristol: C 10.60 F 51.28
Cardiff: C 10.60 F 51.28
Edinburgh: C 10.60 F 51.28
Glasgow: C 10.60 F 51.28
London: C 10.60 F 51.28
Manchester: C 10.60 F 51.28
Newcastle: C 10.60 F 51.28
Nottingham: C 10.60 F 51.28
Oxford: C 10.60 F 51.28
Plymouth: C 10.60 F 51.28
Reading: C 10.60 F 51.28
Sheffield: C 10.60 F 51.28
Southampton: C 10.60 F 51.28
Stoke: C 10.60 F 51.28
Sunderland: C 10.60 F 51.28
Tyneside: C 10.60 F 51.28
Wolverhampton: C 10.60 F 51.28
Wrexham: C 10.60 F 51.28

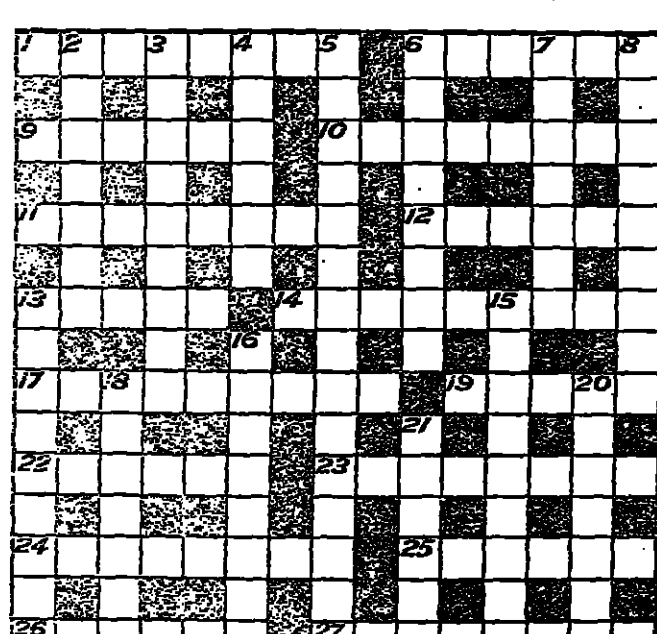
Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: London on June 18C (64F)
Lowest day temp: Aberdeen on June 18C (64F)
Highest night temp: London on June 18C (64F)
Lowest night temp: Aberdeen on June 18C (64F)

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Government's White Paper on expenditure plans.
Lords (2.30): Debate on the consequences of privatization publicly owned companies.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,811



ACROSS

- 1 Bit of jazz by river — a very noisy riddle (4-4)
- 2 Aspects of reality about English society (6)
- 3 Conflict about name in Hastings (6)
- 4 One new blend that is no good as food (8)
- 5 Message reporting mineral spring in the trench (8)
- 6 Redevelopment of quiet rural belt (6)
- 7 Take courage from a French soldier (5)
- 8 Painter's technique is sweeping (9)
- 9 Receive capital review (4,5)
- 10 Gertrude needs gun to capture one (5)
- 11 The dear child makes witty remark about university course (6)
- 12 Sound to impede mobility for instance (3)
- 13 Drive too close to rear entrance (4-4)
- 14 Sovereign having one of these, or four? (6)
- 15 Strong as the village blacksmith (6)
- 16 Newly developed diets are more reliable (8)

DOWN

- 1 Gets drunk at cocktail parties — what language? (7)
- 2 Pudding Lane sounds great (5)
- 3 Crafty agent traps a relative (6)

Solution of Puzzle No 15,810

SOLUTION OF PUZZLE NO 15,810
ACROSS
1. RIVER JAZZ
2. REALITY CHECK
3. HASTINGS
4. NO GOOD
5. MINERAL SPRING
6. RURAL BELT
7. FRENCH SOLDIER
8. PAINTER'S TECHNIQUE
9. CAPITAL REVIEW
10. GERTRUDE
11. DEAR CHILD
12. SOUND TO IMPED
13. DRIVE TOO CLOSE
14. SOVEREIGN
15. STRONG AS
16. NEWLY DEVELOPED
DOWN
1. COCKTAIL PARTIES
2. PUDDING LANE
3. CRAFTY AGENT

Talks, lectures

Acupuncture, by Dr Michael Cohen, Roundshaw Library, Mollison Drive, Roundshaw, Wellingborough, 8.15.
Medieval Stained Windows, illustrated talk by Patricia Bourke, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, 7.30.

Music

Dorset County Museum Music Society Concert, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, 7.30.
Concert by Bristol Sinfonia, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.
Concert by Orchestra of St John's Church, Hexagon, Reading, 7.30.
Concert by Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Queens Hall, Clerk Street, Edinburgh, 7.30.
Recital by Marisa Robles and Christopher Hyde-Smith, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, 7.30.
Handel's Messiah, St Paul's Church, Lancaster, 7.30.
Choir and Lancaster Chamber Orchestra, St Anne's Church, Manchester, 7.30.

Sporting fixtures

Football: First Division: West Bromwich Albion v Manchester City (7.30). One third division and two fourth division matches.
Racing: Flat at Epsom (2) and Ripon (2.45). NH at Cheltenham (2).
Tennis: British hard court championships, Bournemouth.
Cricket: Cambridge University v Glamorgan (11.30 to 6.30).

Anniversaries

Births: Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, Steint, 1729; Friedrich Froebel, German educationist, Ober Wiesbach, Germany, 1782; Charlotte Brontë, Thornton, Yorks, 1816; Henry VII died at Richmond, Surrey, 1509; Mark Twain died at Redding, Conn, USA, 1910.

Marathon party

After the London Marathon on May 9, the whole of the covered market area at Covent Garden is to be taken over for an evening jamboree following the presentation of the marathon prizes under the portico of St Paul's Church. There will be buskers and jazz bands, still walkers, Disney characters and a fairground. Six thousand tickets at £2 each are now on sale in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and are obtainable from the London Tourist Information Centre at Victoria Station (01-730 0791) or from County Hall (01-633 1633 or 633 1723).

Postnotes

From today, postnotes — prepaid letters for mailing anywhere in the United Kingdom — will replace the old letter cards. They fold together like overseas aerogrammes, but are made of stronger, better quality paper.

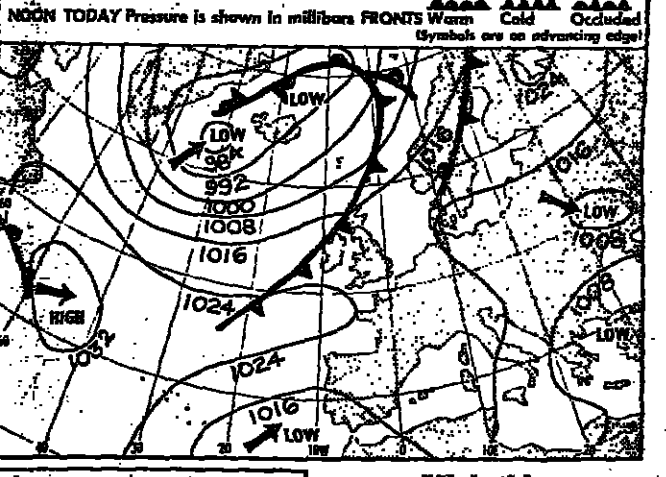
Available from post offices at 21p each of £1 for five, they will be treated as first class mail value printed on them. This means they can still be used after any future rise in postal charges without additional payment.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.75	1.67
Austria Sch	31.40	29.40
Belgium Fr	92.00	87.00
Canada \$	2.22	2.14
Denmark Kr	15.03	14.22
Ireland P	1.26	1.21
France Fr	11.48	10.88
Germany Dm	4.44	4.19
Greece Dr	116.20	109.00
Hong Kong \$	10.50	10.00
Italy L	2385.00	2285.00
Japan Yn	458.00	432.00
Netherlands Gld	4.90	4.64
Norway Kr	11.22	10.62
Portugal Esc	132.50	125.00
South Africa Rd	2.78	2.64
Spain Pta	191.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	10.96	10.38
Switzerland Fr	3.62	3.40
USA \$	1.82	1.75

London. The FT index closed up 4.5 at 362.6.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars



High tides

	AM	PM	MT	BT
London Bridge	12.36	0.11	6.5	11.9
Aberdeen	12.29	0.37	12.27	3.8
Ayrtonmouth	6.08	11.8	6.33	11.9
Belfast	12.08	0.10	6.1	11.9
Cardiff	5.55	10.6	6.20	11.1
Donington	4.33	4.9	5.07	6.0
Edinburgh	10.04	0.9	10.54	6.0
Falmouth	4.02	4.7	4.37	4.8
Glasgow			12.17	4.4
Harwich	11.11	3.91	12.71	5.1
Highhead	9.30	5.1	10.00	5.1
Hull	5.34	6.6	5.58	6.5
Leamington	9.07	3.2	9.30	6.0
Leith	1.40	4.8	5.53	5.0
Liverpool	10.04	0.6	10.54	6.0
Luton	5.55	2.2	6.41	2.2
Manchester	11.19	4.4	11.23	4.4
Marple	3.19	3.9	4.06	3.8
Mosley	4.12	6.3	4.35	6.4
Murresay	4.09	3.5	4.35	3.4
Oban	5.29	3.5	4.35	3.4
Orkney	3.58	3.9	4.10	3.8
Portland	5.39	1.8	5.21	1.8
Portsmouth	10.30	4.2	10.56	4.2
Shrewsbury	10.04	0.6	10.54	6.0
Southampton	5.20	1.8	5.45	1.7
Stoke	10.07	4.1	10.57	4.0
Tees	2.05	4.7	2.65	4.6
Walsby-on-Trent	11.03	3.9	11.16	3.8

0=overcast 1= fog 2=blue sky and cloud 3=cloudy
4=drizzle 5= fog 6=drizzle 7= hail 8= mist
9= rain 10= rain and drizzle 11= rain and fog
12= rain and hail 13= rain and hail and fog
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